

Protestants protest Anglo-Irish pact

BELFAST (R) — Angry Protestants burned an effigy of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Saturday during a big rally protesting against the new Anglo-Irish accord that gives Dublin a role in Northern Ireland. In the first public reaction to the agreement signed a week ago, at least 70,000 members of the Protestant-Unionist majority community — one of the biggest such turnouts in Northern Ireland's history — gathered to demonstrate their opposition. The unionists, who want Northern Ireland to remain part of Britain, see the new accord as a first step towards reunification with the predominantly Catholic Irish Republic. Organisers said 100,000 people joined the protest, making it the largest demonstration in Northern Ireland since 1912, when hundreds of thousands of Protestants signed a covenant against home rule for Ireland. Police estimated the crowd at 70,000.

UNIONIST LEADER
CENTRAL OFFICE
READING ROOM

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

Prince Hassan hails ACAF

TUNIS (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday said the setting up of the Arab Certified Accountants Forum (ACAF) was a milestone in promoting accounting standards in the Arab World to reach international levels. In an address before the ACAF's first meeting in Tunis, the Crown Prince said the forum will be a constructive organisation aiming at supporting pan-Arab economy. Prince Hassan's address was delivered by Dr. Bassam Al Saket, director general of the Pension Fund, who is representing Jordan in the three-day conference which is due to discuss issues related to accountancy in the Arab countries. Earlier on Saturday, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba received Dr. Saket, Dr. Hashem Dahbous, director general of the Auditing Bureau, and Mr. Talal Abu Gazeleh, president of the ACAF.

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Algerian delegation arrives for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing Algeria's Ministry of Higher Education arrived in Amman on Saturday on a several-day visit to hold talks with senior officials on means to bolster bilateral coordination on education-related issues. The delegation will meet officials of the University of Jordan on prospects of exchanging visits of professors with Algerian universities.

Obeid leaves for Cairo meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Farhi Obeid left for Cairo on Saturday to attend joint Jordanian-Egyptian-Iraqi meetings on a project to establish land links between Iraq and Egypt through Jordan. Mr. Obeid, who is accompanied by an official delegation, will also discuss with his Egyptian and Iraqi counterparts issues related to the transport of one million tonnes of Iraqi cement to Egypt through Jordan.

Arab team heads for Libya, Iraq

RABAT (AP) — A delegation for a special inter-Arab commission charged with reconciling differences between Iraq and Libya has left Rabat for talks with the leaders of those two countries. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali and adviser to Morocco's King Hassan II were among the delegation's members. The commission met last week. The delegation was to meet in the coming days with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

S. Arabia pays \$28.5m to PLO

RIYADH (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Saturday it had received \$28.5 million in aid from Saudi Arabia, latest of the quarterly instalments it contributes to the PLO budget. The PLO's Riyadh representative, Rafiq Nathe, said the kingdom was the first country to fulfil its obligation to the organisation.

Larnaca gunmen go on trial on Dec. 2

NICOSIA (R) — Three gunmen will stand trial in December for the murder of three Israelis aboard a yacht at Larnaca in September, a senior state counsel said Saturday. Prosecutor Michael Kyprianos said the supreme court had set Dec. 2 as the trial date for Ian Davis, Khaled Al Khatib and Abdul Hakim Al Khalifa. All three are charged with the murder of two men and a woman, all Israelis, when they stormed a yacht in Larnaca marina on Sept. 25. They surrendered after a nine-hour siege by police.

SLA men shell S. Lebanese villages

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon shelled villages on the edge of Israel's "security zone" early after guerrillas attacked their positions, security sources said Saturday. The sources had no reports of casualties. They said guerrillas had fired machine-guns and rockets or mortars at seven positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), causing casualties at the Beit Yaboun post seven kilometres from the border.

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Shells pound Beirut as militia 'flag war' enters fourth day

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shellfire shook west Beirut on Saturday as Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militias battled for control of the streets, taking their "flag war" into a fourth day.

Fighting resumed in much of the capital's mainly Muslim Western sector as a Syrian-mediated ceasefire crumbled after an overnight lull. Police and radio stations reported that several apartment buildings and a paper factory were hit by the heavy fighting. Clashes between the PSP and Amal continued in several districts. Cars burned in the streets.

"Shells are falling everywhere," the Voice of the Nation radio reported. "Apartment buildings are burning, but the firemen cannot reach them because of the heavy fighting."

Dozens of mortar rounds crashed into residential neighbourhoods, spraying the streets with shrapnel. Police said at least eight people were killed and 25 wounded in Saturday's battles with tanks, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

That raised the known toll to at least 52 people killed and more than 225 wounded since the outbreak of fighting between the two warring factions against the rightist in Lebanon's civil war turned on each other on Wednesday. Fifteen of the dead were children aged between 5 and 12. Most died in apartment block fires that burned out of control because of the fighting.

PLO appears to be seeking more time before decisions

By Lami K. Andoni in Baghdad

PALESTINIAN leaders meeting here for the past four days have not reached any specific decision on future moves towards Middle East peace and the trend of the meetings appeared to be aimed at buying more time before any decision is made, according to sources close to the deliberations.

The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of Fatah opened the meetings on Wednesday and the focus of the talks was a review of recent violent events in the Middle East. These events delivered a blow to the Middle East peace process and as a first step towards restoring the damaged PLO image, the meeting endorsed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's declaration in Cairo last month denouncing guerrilla attacks outside Israeli-held territories.

4 candidates emerge as favourites to win today's House elections

By Rana Sabbagh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Intense, and sometimes bitter, behind-the-scenes lobbying by candidates and their supporters peaked over the weekend with four nominees emerging as favourites to win today's election in the Lower House of Parliament to fill four seats representing the West Bank.

However, the emergence of the four favourites — Tahseen Al Faris (Nabbus), Wahid Al Jaafari (Hebron), Farouq Abdul Nabi Hafez (Tulkarm) and Nicola Akel (Ramallah) — did not in any way mean that the election process was simplified nor that the results were sure to favour them. On the contrary, today's elections hold out prospects for a long, drawn-out battle on the House floor by the various tribal, regional and political groupings within and outside of Parliament.

Also, a cold war seems to have

cause firemen could not get through to tackle the blazes.

The fighting is the heaviest factional feuding in war-battered west Beirut in nearly two years.

Several artillery shells flew past the Reuters office in a central area towards the strategic Murr Tower, an unfinished 40-storey block held by Amal and besieged by the PSP.

Clashes began on Wednesday when PSP fighters ripped Lebanese national flags from a state-owned television station guarded by army troops and forced it off the air.

Amal militiamen reacted angrily next day as the PSP pursued its campaign to remove the red, green and white flags put up for the 42nd anniversary of Lebanon's independence.

The PSP sees the national flag as symbolic of a Christian-dominated state created by Western colonialism.

The television resumed broadcasting on Saturday despite fighting in nearby streets. It said Amal leader Nabih Berri talked by telephone with PSP head Walid Junblatt, but gave no details.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam had contacts with a number of Muslim leaders, but by nightfall there was little

sign that the peace efforts were bearing fruit.

Syria supplies the PSP and Amal with weapons, and has not commented publicly on the conflict between the two groups, which are formally allied against rightist forces.

British Church envoy Terry Waite, on a freedom mission for four Americans held by kidnappers, remained at the Commodore Hotel, which serves as base for the foreign press.

A Reuters photographer seeking pictures of Amal fighters nearby was asked by their commander to contact his PSP counterpart to prevent a repeat of Friday's fighting around the hotel. They met there after she had relayed the message.

As shooting intensified elsewhere, civilians who had ventured out to buy food and inspect damage hastily returned home and shopkeepers pulled down their shutters.

Local militia commanders met in a street outside the Commodore Hotel in a fresh bid to declare the area around the seven-storey building a neutral zone. But firing continued sporadically outside the hotel.

The fighting stalled Mr. Waite's one-man mercy mission. He had planned to fly to New York on Thursday to meet U.S. officials and church leaders after clandestine meetings with the kidnappers.

"I'm hoping to leave Sunday," he said. "But my travel plans right now are a little uncertain because of the situation here."

The U.S. assistant secretary of state arrived on Friday after a similar briefing to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"I described both the content and the nature of the discussions that those two leaders (U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev) had," Mr. Murphy said.

He said he had agreed with Mr. Mubarak to stay "in very close contact over the coming weeks so as to see how we can advance the possibilities of serious movement in the peace process."

Murphy leaves Cairo for Delhi

CAIRO (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy left Cairo for New Delhi on Saturday to brief Indian officials on the outcome of the Geneva summit. He will travel on to Jordan on Tuesday, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Mr. Mubarak, when asked about the obstacles blocking a U.S.-sponsored international peace conference, said Egypt was waiting for the results of the meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, presently meeting in Baghdad.

"They (the Palestinians) have to come to a conclusion... concerning (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 242 and 338," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak also said further "discussions" were needed for the international peace conference, which would include the two superpowers and the three other permanent members of the Security Council, Israel, the PLO, Jordan and other concerned parties.

Mr. Murphy said problems concerning "the nature of the international auspices or international conference, both starting negotiations and the question of Palestinian representation... are still not resolved."

Mr. Mubarak told a group of African ministers that he believed there were plans for a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State, George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the Middle East.

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein visits the Tomb of the Prophet Mohammad in Medina during a brief stopover he made on his way back from Sana'a to Amman on Saturday (Petra photo)

Differences remain on forum for peace talks, Murphy says in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. presidential envoy Richard Murphy briefed President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday on the outcome of the Geneva summit and said differences over an international peace conference for the Middle East are "still not resolved."

Mr. Murphy met with President Mubarak for two and a half hours, and later told reporters that he hoped that his present round of talks in the region will help "narrow those differences."

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(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince urges imams to avoid arguments, disputes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said on Saturday that Jihad (holy war) was never meant to be used as a means to influence or exploit people but represented Islamic teaching and guidance.

Addressing a group of imams who graduated in Islamic jurisprudence at the Sharia Department of the Military Directorate, the Crown Prince pointed out that the Prophet Mohammad used to send envoys to adversaries before sending military troops and therefore it is evident that Islamic law does not authorise war with anyone before sending an emissary to him.

The Crown Prince called on Islamic scholars and imams to find points of dialogue with people and urged them to refrain from launching arguments and creating controversies. Unifying the word of Islam should be the priority of all Islamic and Arab countries and such a unification will not be possible if their views on the basic issues of their doctrine and religious culture do not meet, the Crown Prince said.

Addressing the graduates, he said their prime task was to draw diverse views closer and set out an order of priority for Islamic work. The duty of Muslim scholars is to

explore the points of conversion and to avoid all kinds of arguments and disputes, he added.

The concept of an Islamic-Islamic dialogue was motivated by these factors, the Crown Prince said. Such a dialogue should be initiated with open minds and wide knowledge because it could wipe out suspicions and doubts which are aggravated by isolation and reliance on unreliable doctrines and sayings, he said.

"We have called for such a dialogue and established the Al al Bayt Foundation to serve as a centre where all Muslim intellectuals could meet and exchange views," he said.

Muslim scholars, while dealing with the issues of Muslims, should note that many developments have taken place in the world and that Sharia can cope with all these new developments, because it is the eternal religion of God, Prince Hassan said. However, he added, the application of rules will not be valid unless it is governed by correct knowledge of the reality of the new developments. Therefore, the need for specialised Sharia scholars (ulama) emerges, because it is impossible for the man of today to be aware of all Sharia and sciences of life, he said.

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal agents announced on Saturday the arrest of a retired Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) analyst on charges of spying for China, the latest in a recent spate of U.S. espionage scandals.

Larry Wu-Tai Chin, 63, was arrested Friday night at his home in nearby Alexandria, Virginia, and charged with passing classified CIA documents to China during and after his 30-year career with the agency.

Mr. Chin, a naturalised U.S. citizen, was to go before a U.S. Magistrate for a preliminary hearing later on Saturday. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William Webster said. It was believed to be the first U.S. espionage case involving China.

The arrest of Mr. Chin, who is married and has three children, comes on the heels of an announcement late Friday that federal officials had uncovered another family spy ring.

The FBI announced the arrest of Ann Henderson-Pollard, 25, who was accused of unauthorised possession of classified national defence documents (See page 2).

Mr. Chin was arrested after a long investigation by the FBI. He was charged with passing classified CIA documents to China during and after his 30-year career with the agency.

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(Continued on page 2)

King returns from Sana'a

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman on Saturday at the end of a four-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman and a three-day official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic. In Yemen the King held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh on bilateral relations and current Arab and international issues. In Oman, the King attended the Sultanate's National Day celebrations.

King Hussein was received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members and senior government officials.

Also returning with the King were Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jaseem and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Upon departure from Yemen, King Hussein sent a cable to President Ali Abdullah Saleh thanking him for the warm reception and hospitality extended during his visit.

In his cable, King Hussein said: "My visit to your country has provided a good opportunity for me to see closely the achievements your country has gained. It was also a good opportunity for us to exchange views on the common Arab issues and contributed to strengthening and developing bilateral relations between our two countries."

At the end of King Hussein's visit to the Yemen Arab Republic, a joint communique was issued on Saturday in Amman and Sana'a.

The communique said that the King expressed admiration for the advanced level North Yemen has achieved in the field of economic development which was crowned by recent elections to broaden the base of the people's National Assembly and local councils.

During the visit both leaders held talks on bilateral relations, in an atmosphere of understanding.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the standard of the bilateral relations and stressed the need for expanding and developing these relations in all fields, particularly political, economic, cultural, educational and information through more contacts between the Jordanian and Yemeni governments.

While reviewing the current Arab issues and the Palestine questions and the challenges facing the Arab Nation, the two sides expressed their conviction of the

(Continued on page 2)

Moscow seems to be expecting U.S. concessions over arms race

LONDON (Agencies) — The Soviet leadership on Saturday signalled that it viewed the Geneva summit as a turning point in superpower relations after U.S. President Ronald Reagan said on Friday the summit "cleared the air" for better ties between Washington and Moscow.

Initial Soviet press commentary also indicated that the Kremlin viewed the summit as leaving the onus on Washington to make concessions, especially on space weapons.

The Communist Party daily Pravda on Saturday carried a generally optimistic assessment of this week's meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan, as well as a poem which likened the summit to the sowing of wheat.

Pravda said the summit started a dialogue which could change U.S.-Soviet relations and the world climate for the better.

In its view, the main achievement was that both sides had accepted they could not win a nuclear war and made assurances that

they would not seek military superiority over each other.

But the newspaper said the significance of the Geneva accord could only be judged by action and warned that Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" programme would give a new twist to the arms race if it went ahead.

Compared with pre-summit attacks on the U.S. strategic defence initiative (SDI) for a space anti-missile shield, this comment was low-key.

The poem, by Sergei Ostrovski, a writer well-known in the Soviet Union, was printed on Pravda's front page. It began: "As after spring sowing Our work awaits joyous fulfilment. So we are waiting for your shoots, Geneva."

Another poem, from the Soviet poet, there has been little other comment so far.

In Washington, Mr. Reagan told his cabinet on Friday his talks with Mr. Gorbachev "cleared the air" in superpower relations but

acknowledged that he failed to soothe the Soviet opposition to "Star Wars."

Mr. Reagan said his private summit sessions with Mr. Gorbachev had some heated moments, with the Soviet leader thumping the table to emphasise some points.

He revealed that his one-to-one talks with Mr. Gorbachev were not always as cordial as the all-smiles publicity photos may have indicated.

In a stormy Wednesday morning session, Mr. Reagan said the 54-year-old Soviet leader slapped the table for emphasis, pointed his finger and demanded answers to questions on the SDI. NBC Television reported.

"I'm trying to answer, I'm trying to answer, but you're not listening," NBC quoted the president as responding.

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U.S., USSR to resume flights, page 7
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NEWS IN BRIEF

King thanks speakers.

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez received reply cables from His Majesty King Hussein, in which His Majesty thanked them for congratulating him on his 50th birthday and wished them success, happiness and good health.

Royal Decree approves cabinet decision

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the cabinet's decision to appoint Mr. Majed Mohammad Al Adwan and Mr. Fayez Hussein Al Abbadi as governors at the interior ministry.

Arab petrochemical experts meet in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meetings of Arab experts on petrochemical industries started in Amman on Saturday. Taking part in the meeting, organised by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Gulf Fund for Industrial Development, are a number of Arab experts in the field of petrochemical industries. Participants will discuss conditions in the world and Arab markets in the field of petrochemicals, and review studies prepared by OAPEC and the Gulf Fund for Industrial Development. The studies highlight the importance of establishing joint projects such as an Arab refinery for processing the raw materials in order to reduce reliance on imports.

Dakhqan returns from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan returned Saturday to Amman from Khartoum where he deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in addressing an international seminar on desertification. Mr. Dakhqan also delivered two messages from Prince Hassan to Sudanese leader General Abdul Rahman Swareddahab and Sudanese premier Ali Jazouli Dafa'allah. During his visit Mr. Dakhqan also visited the headquarters of the Jordanian medical team sent to the Sudan and inspected the progress of the team's work in providing medical treatment to the drought stricken Sudanese people. Mr. Dakhqan also held talks with his Sudanese counterpart on bilateral relations in the agricultural field.

Muasher meets U.S. trade delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajal Al Muasher met Saturday with a trade delegation from the United States to discuss the possibility of assembling and manufacturing some components of heating and cooling equipment in Jordan. Mr. Muasher reviewed with the delegation members the law on encouragement of investment in Jordan and the incentives provided by the law for local industries.

Iraqi minister to sign transport pact

CAIRO (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Transport Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim arrived Saturday in Cairo on an official visit to Egypt, during which he will sign a joint Egyptian-Jordanian-Iraqi agreement for commissioning a land and sea route linking Cairo, Amman and Baghdad. The Iraqi minister expressed the hope that the new agreement will facilitate the movement of citizens among the Arab capitals.

VOA invites questions on technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Individuals interested in knowing more about new U.S. technologies that meet the special needs of the developing world can obtain information from the Voice of America (VOA). The VOA "Talk To America" call-in show invites questions on this topic from VOA listeners all over the world. You can participate in this live programme by calling (202-485-6303) COLLECT on Sunday, December 1, 1985 during the programme which will begin at 7:10 p.m. Jordan time. You can also arrange for your participation in advance by calling the same number anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Jordan time Monday through Friday.

Exhibition encourages Dutch-Jordanian cooperation in trade and agriculture

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ten leading agricultural and food export establishments from The Netherlands staged a one-day exhibition at the Jordan International Hotel on Thursday, with the hope of promoting trade between Jordan and Holland and establishing joint ventures in the fields of agriculture and food industry between the two countries. "Jordan has proved itself as a stable and moderate country, which enjoys good trade contacts with its neighbours and which also is an ideal place for joint ventures and investments," said Mr. Alexander Heydendaal, agricultural attaché at The Netherlands' embassy in Damascus. Holland's exports to Jordan, chiefly dairy products and agricultural equipment, reached \$25 million in 1984, while Jordanian exports of vegetables and phosphates to The Netherlands in 1984 totalled \$5 million. The exhibition, which was held for the third time in the Kingdom since 1980, was organised by The Netherlands Ministry for Agriculture, in cooperation with The Netherlands' embassy in Damascus and The Netherlands' Consulate in Amman, led to a number of business contacts between numerous leading agricultural and food export establishments in Jordan and Holland, Mr. Heydendaal said.

Five out of the ten participating companies took part in the previous exhibitions while the rest are here for the first time. Describing Jordanian business, Mr. Heydendaal said that previous experiences in Jordan's private sector establishments revealed that Jordanian merchants and businessmen are sources for good business contacts both in the Middle East and internationally. Paying tribute to the economic

achievements of Prime Minister Zaid Rifaf's cabinet, he said, "your prime minister is a private-enterprise-minded man, who has watched the country's economic recession prior to his appointment and who has since sought to boost Jordan's national economy." Mr. Heydendaal added. On display at the exhibition were different agricultural machinery and equipment pamphlets, periodicals describing leading companies in the areas of potato production, dairy engineering equipment, animal vaccines, cheese samples, dairy products, glass and plastic green houses, fertilisers, natural and ornamental flower exports, and horticultural products.

Director of the International Marketing Centre (IMC), Jacques Voois said he anticipated a more direct and crystallised understanding between the Jordanian buyer and The Netherlands' supplier, as well as the promotion of more trade exchanges between both countries as a result of this meeting. Mr. Voois, who is in charge of organising imports, exports, marketing, and management and sales support methods for more than 100 export items, said that his company enjoyed good relationships with Jordanian establishments.

An interesting item on display from a leading Dutch company was a new green house material made of polyester and aluminium stripes. Explaining the uniqueness of this new invention in providing adequate light, temperature and humidity, manager Frank Zingoropoli said that light penetrates through the polyester stripe, while heat is reflected by the aluminium stripe. This process helps in saving energy, keeps the temperature inside the green-house normal and prevents the formulation of excess moisture.

Mr. Heydendaal concluded that The Netherlands was very much interested in helping Jordan to boost its agriculture and raise more cattle in order to reach a state of self-sufficiency in the future.

Although the main problems impeding Jordan's progress in the field of agriculture are the lack of adequate water resources, animal feed roughages, educated cattle-farmers and a scientific exchange between the government and the farmers, Mr. Heydendaal hopes that Jordan will show promising economic signs as these obstacles are solved.

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Delegation supports Jordan's peace moves, opposes Israeli settlements

By Affeh Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The head of the visiting European parliamentary delegation described the initiative launched by His Majesty King Hussein to hold an international peace conference as a positive step and a promising one towards solving the Palestinian problem and establishing durable and just peace in the region.

In an interview with Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Mr. Peter Price, head of a delegation representing the Arab European Association, said that it is inconceivable to hope for any major peaceful settlement without the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is the representative of the Palestinian people. Mr. Price also said that there is no reason to justify any Israeli settlement in the occupied territories because it is a negative factor impeding the peaceful endeavours in the region.

Khatib will open exhibit of bird photos

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib will on Thursday patronise the inauguration of a photo exhibition entitled "The Birds of Jordan".

The exhibition, which will open at the Amra Hotel and is part of the Kingdom's celebrations to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday anniversary is organised by retired army captain Arslan Kamadan Bakji.

Mr. Bakji, a renowned Jordanian photographer and writer, published a book entitled "Amman, Yesterday and Today," in 1983.

Alia staff donate JD 15,600 to famine victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has made a contribution of JD 15,600 to the drought and famine victims of Sudan. Alia Director General Mahmoud Balgez presented a cheque to Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, in his capacity as rapporteur to the Jordanian National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People.

Mr. Balgez said that the Alia staff have responded to His Majesty King Hussein's directives and a call by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to extend help to the Sudanese refugees.

Mr. Price added "We are against occupation because every nation has the right for self-determination and we consider self-determination as highly valued." He also pointed out that they are against terrorism, a position which has been reflected in their denunciation of the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia last month.

He said that the support of the European parliamentarians for holding an international conference is not something new for it called for it in 1983. Mr. Price stressed that the European parliamentarians are willing to support any initiative to find a just and durable solution in the region.

Mr. Price pointed out that the delegation's visit to Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon aims at familiarising themselves with the current situation in the region so that they can in turn influence their fellow parliamentarians and public opinion in Europe and "for creating a certain mood in favour of solving the Middle East problem."

EC stresses support for just Mideast solution

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ten European Community (EC) countries and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Spain and Portugal have exchanged views on the recent developments and the peace process in the Middle East, reaffirming their attachment to the principles they have announced on numerous occasions in the past to contribute towards achieving a just, peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question, according to a press release received from the French embassy here.

They called for maintaining and strengthening the peaceful efforts and lauded King Hussein's initiative and the Feb. 11 Jordanian-Palestinian accord, the press release said.

They also reaffirmed their readiness to support any constructive efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region. They also announced their readiness to intensify contacts with all parties with a view to encouraging rapprochement between diverse positions.

The delegation left Saturday for Iraq and will be back in Amman next Wednesday.

Mr. Lawzi also explained to the delegation the dimensions of the inhuman Israeli practices and expansionist policies in denying the Palestinian people its legitimate rights and seizing the Arab lands.

Mr. Lawzi added that the moral, political and cultural relations between Arabs and Europe are based on the principles of justice, common interests and international responsibility. These require an active European role contributing to the achievement of a just, peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

He also discussed with them His Majesty King Hussein's efforts and the Jordanian initiatives to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East region.

The European parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Friday on a brief visit to Jordan as part of a fact finding tour of the Middle East, which will take them also to Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh also received the delegation members and reviewed with them

Lawzi: Palestine question is core of Mideast conflict

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi stressed on Saturday that the Palestine question is the core of conflict in the Middle East and that all events affecting the area are linked in a way or another with this issue and its dangerous impact on international peace and security.

During a meeting with a European parliamentary delegation, currently on a week long visit to Jordan, Mr. Lawzi briefed the delegation members on Jordan's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question, and the historic opportunity provided by the Feb. 11 accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan based on the Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Arab city of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in the framework of an international conference attended by all parties to the conflict.

Mr. Lawzi also explained to the delegation the dimensions of the inhuman Israeli practices and expansionist policies in denying the Palestinian people its legitimate rights and seizing the Arab lands.

Mr. Lawzi added that the moral, political and cultural relations between Arabs and Europe are based on the principles of justice, common interests and international responsibility. These require an active European role

contributing to the achievement of a just, peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

The meeting was attended by Senate members Hikmat Al Masri, Walid Salah and Thouqan Al Hindawi, in addition to the Parliament's Secretary General Hani Kheir.

Senate member Bahjat Al Talbouni also received the European parliament delegation and exchanged views with them on cooperation between Arab parliamentarians and their European counterparts with the aim of achieving a just, peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

He also discussed with them His Majesty King Hussein's efforts and the Jordanian initiatives to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East region.

The European parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Friday on a brief visit to Jordan as part of a fact finding tour of the Middle East, which will take them also to Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh also received the delegation members and reviewed with them

parliamentary life in Jordan and the relationship between legislative power and other government authorities. Mr. Joudeh said that the relations are based on consultation, which conforms with the principle of separation of powers guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution.

He also briefed the delegation members on electoral procedures and developments of the election law which were necessary to make it conform with the political and administrative situation in Jordan. Mr. Joudeh further explained the duties and responsibilities of his new ministry and its role in coordinating the legislative and executive powers.

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an also received the delegation and briefed them on the developments concerning the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Kana'an pointed out that the political, economic and psychological pressures exercised by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people are aimed at evicting them from their land and seizing this land in order to build Israeli settlements.

Mr. Kana'an said Israel closes the Arab universities and educational institutions every now and then with a view to stopping the pace of scientific progress in the occupied Arab territories and to increase the number of unemployed people in an effort to encourage Arabs to leave their land.

The meeting was attended by the Ministry's under secretary, Dr. Ahmad Al-Anani.

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Announces

Two (2) International Auctions

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Location: Aqaba Free Zone Nov. 30-Dec. 1-2, 1985, 8:00 a.m. Location: Zarqa Free Zone Dec. 7-8-9, 1985, 8:00 a.m.

Construction Equipment Materials — vehicles.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

- 2 1979 Komatsu D-155A crawler tractors
- 1 1981 Jutani 750 excavator
- 1 Grove crane 75 ton hydraulic
- 1 1975 Grove crane 50 ton RT
- 1 1971 Pinguely 75 ton truck mounted crane
- 1 1970 NCK Papier crawler crane
- 1 1971 Potain tower crane
- 7 1979 Sambron AM 32 forklifts
- 2 1979 Sambron AM 354R forklifts
- 6 1979 Sambron AM 252 forklifts
- 2 1981 Sambron 230 forklifts

- 2 1979 Al baret 22.5 ton pneumatic tyre roller
- 1 1980 Al baret 22.5 ton pneumatic tyre roller
- 1 1980 Sheepfoot vibrator 170 BD
- 1 1982 Sheepfoot vibrator 170 BD
- 1 1982 ASB roller vibrator
- 5 1981 MF street cleaners
- 2 1980 Marini asphalt finishers
- 1 1979 Vermeer trencher
- 1 1979 Vermeer trencher w/dozer blade

CONCRETE DUMPERS/MIXERS/TROWELS/BLOCK PLANT

- 3 1979 Sambron dumpers
- 3 1981 Sambron dumpers
- 1 1975 Sambron dumper
- 1 1979 Richier concrete mixers
- 1 1979 SMG Frelon mech. trowels
- 1 1979 SMG Frelon concrete block machines

GENERATORS/WELDING MACHINES

- 5 Honda gen. sets 4.5 KVA
- 1 Dawson Keith gen. set 106 KVA
- 4 Lister gen. sets 12.5 KVA
- 1 Ponven gen. set 125 KVA
- 29 Heli gen. sets 15 KVA
- 3 Polyma gen. sets 394/357 KVA

- 15 Lincoln Diesel welding machine
- 1 Safel petbow Diesel welding machine
- 2 Sarnig welding machine

AIR COMPRESSORS/PUMPS

- 2 Atlas Copco XA 120 air compressors
- 2 Thome air compressors
- 3 Demag SC 10 D air compressors
- 3 Demag SD 25 F air compressors
- 24 Sykes Diesel powered water pumps
- 11 Flygt elect submersible water pumps
- 3 Toyo elect submersible water pumps
- 3 Flygt centrifugal pumps

MISC. EQUIPMENT

- 2 Sabajet sand blasters
- 1 Clipper material saw
- 2 Christensen drilling machines
- 1 Geismar ballast tamper
- 1 Geismar rail bender
- 1 Geismar rail profile grinding machine
- 2 Wacker damper hammers

- 10 1979 Renault agricultural tractor
- 2 1979 King Master disc ploughs
- 2 1982 Water booster plants

POCLAIN ACCESSORIES

- Poclain 90D booms bucket
- Poclain 75P hammer, assorted buckets
- Poclain 300CK loader boom, dipstick, bucket

TRUCKS/ TRAILERS

- 5 1982 Magirus Deutz trucks w/liebherr concrete mixers
- 5 1979 Berliet tipping trucks
- 1 1979 Berliet multi bucket truck
- 1 1980 Berliet concrete pump truck
- 1 1979 MAN flatbed truck w/liab crane
- 2 1979 Berliet flatbed trucks w/liab cranes
- 1 1981 Berliet flatbed trucks w/liab crane
- 2 1982 Berliet flatbed trucks w/liab crane
- 4 1980 Berliet trucks w/liebherr concrete mixers
- 2 1979 Berliet service trucks
- 1 1979 MAN service truck
- 1 1980 MAN service truck
- 1 1979 Berliet mobile workshop truck
- 1 1974 Saviem truck tractor
- 1 1975 Saviem truck tractor w/tank trailer
- 1 1979 Saviem bus
- 1 1980 Saviem bus
- 1 1981 Toyota double cab pickup
- 4 1981 Toyota pickup
- 15 1979 ACTM flatbed trailers length 11 meters
- 13 1979 ACTM flatbed trailers length 6 metres
- 1 1982 Lowboy 65 ton tri axle trailer
- 1 1979 flatbed tri trailer

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Pricing at 'cost plus' promotes inefficiency

THE drafted law of the Ministry of Supplies was published in Al Ra'i newspaper recently. There is an article in the draft which defines the manner that the Ministry must apply when fixing prices of domestic products. The article of the draft law reads: The appropriate departments at the Ministry of Supplies shall prepare studies covering the costs of supplies which the minister sees fit to fix their prices. After the determination of the total cost of such commodities, a percentage will be added. This percentage is to be decided by the minister at the recommendation of the "specialised committees."

The article as translated above has one message: The

arbitrary decisions which had been issued by the Ministry of Supplies may go unchecked. The fact that the price of a certain commodity will be fixed or not is left to the absolute discretion of the Minister of Supplies at the time. The allowed gross profit margin is also to be decided by the minister.

The draft law does not define the goods that can be subjected to compulsory price fixing by the ministry, nor the gross profit margin. These crucial matters are left to administrative orders. Effectively the law does not regulate the possible behaviour of the Ministry of Supplies in this regard nor its authority and limits. The law does not recognise the supply and demand in a free market.

The possible result of such a law, if actually enacted, will be to discourage investments in food industry. Profitability in this sector could not be determined by efficiency or market forces anymore. It depends solely on the pricing decisions taken by the Minister of Supplies from time to time. This will be a very negative incentive confronting all those who may contemplate the establishment of any food industry in the country.

Another more important point is that the "cost plus" method of pricing is actually an effective incentive for inefficiency in operating the business. It punishes those who manage to reduce the production costs and enhance eff-

iciency. The end result is a loss to national economy and unwillingness to export.

We could have some sympathy with the law if price fixing were based on world market prices plus a percentage. Such pricing will reward efficiency and cost savings by increasing profits or reducing losses. The drawback would be the inability of the ministry to respond to price changes and to avoid rigidity and lack of flexibility on behalf of the bureaucracy.

It is common knowledge that starting from the actual cost, and deciding the mark up based on this cost, will definitely promote inefficiency and waste. This waste is thus

rewarded by allowing the producer to recover it from the consumer, plus a profit percentage.

This becomes very obvious when there is only one producer of the subject commodity.

The so-called cost studies of specialised departments in the Ministry of Supplies or the recommendations of the specialised committees, or the like were all well known to, and bitterly resented by, the private sector. The inadequate draft law is but a sample of all those departments and committees' way of thinking. The Minister will be well advised to reject such approach, and push on with the present government's declared programme to lib-

eralise the activities of the private sector and limit unnecessary intervention in its affairs to the bare minimum.

Market prices are the best known method to allocate resources in a way to maximise returns. Government intervention and compulsory price fixing is the surest way to distort this mechanism and build instead a whole set-up of inefficiencies and mis-allocation of resources.

If price fixing was justified when inflation was running at double digit figures between 1973 and 1982, it is no more justified when our current inflation rate has been in the range of 3 to 5 per cent per annum since 1983.

Plus for Geneva

THE WORLD at large has hailed the outcome of the Geneva summit as a fresh start and a clear plus for world peace and global understanding. But what about us here in the Middle East? How should we feel about a summit meeting between the two superpowers that hardly talked or even mentioned our troubles and problems in any tangible way?

Well, first, as part of the world community we must share in the feelings of relief that Messrs Reagan and Gorbachev did establish good personal ties between them and managed to achieve some progress on a number of issues of common concern. To feel otherwise, one would have to imagine the alternative to the displays and implications of the restraint and amiability by the two leaders, and the risk to world peace and security that this alternative might have entailed.

The second fact from which we should derive some comfort is that although Moscow and Washington apparently failed to reach agreement on the Middle East, they nevertheless did not list the region as an area of "serious" disagreement between them. The nuance here is important, and in the absence of hard information we have to admit that it is too early to judge how things will go from here.

In any case, it is the old-new wisdom that still holds true: the two superpowers hold the key to the Palestinian problem, and without detente between them it is almost unimaginable that a just and lasting solution can be found in the foreseeable future.

If the Geneva summit has truly opened the door for a real and lasting detente, as we and the rest of the world hope it has, then it is only fair to be optimistic and positive about its outcome. But time is also of the essence, and unless the two giants move fast to translate their words into actions, the risk remains great to both that this area and other regional problems will continue to be main sources of global strain and danger.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab solidarity

KING HUSSEIN now on a visit to one of the most ancient states in the Arab World spoke of the need for the Arabs to reunite and recreate a glory for the present and the future as they did in the past. In his speech at a dinner banquet in his honour the King spoke of the past and the present and its problems and about the sad state of Arab affairs at present due to divisions and differences. He called on all Arabs to reestablish solidarity and to reunite because, he said, they are all facing the same challenges and common dangers. He said Jordan and North Yemen have displayed such solidarity when they both declared their full backing to Iraq in its defence of its land and of the Arab Nation. The King said that Jordan concluded an agreement with the PLO to work together for regaining the rights of the Palestinian people. He paid tribute to North Yemen which, he said, has lent support and backing to the Feb. 11 agreement. He also paid tribute to North Yemen for its support of Jordan's endeavours to end differences among Arab states, and its efforts to forge strong relations with Syria. King Hussein's visit in North Yemen would not only be successful but also will contribute towards bolstering bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation for the common good.

Al Dustour: East, West and Arabs

THE LEADERS of the Soviet Union and the United States have concluded their summit meeting in Geneva and gone back to their allies to inform them of the results. Mr. Gorbachev went to Prague to brief the Warsaw Pact allies of the talks with the American leader and President Reagan went to Brussels for a meeting with his NATO allies. The Third World is not considered an important party, and so its problems can wait. What is important for the superpowers are their own problems and those of their allies. Third World countries have to wait a very long time and could wait for ever without getting a glimpse of the summit's outcome or about the question that have been discussed by the big powers. But if these questions concern Third World nations which have close ties with the big powers, like Cuba which is closely tied with Moscow and Israel which is bound to Washington, then such nations can hope to get results and to find the answers too. Many wise leaders in the Third World have realised the fact that the whole globe is divided between East and West and dominated by Moscow or Washington. They therefore, should expect nothing from such a summit. What the Arabs could have done was to unify their stand with regard to the Middle East question and submit a unified opinion to the superpowers. Unless they follow this policy they will remain the only losers in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rallying Arab unity

WE VIEW King Hussein's current tour of Arab countries as part of Jordan's moves to reestablish solidarity among Arab states and unify Arab stands vis-a-vis the many challenges and common dangers. Jordan which faces danger in confrontation with the Israeli enemy, has realised before other Arab countries the dimension of the common challenges and dangers; and finds it a national duty to inform others of such danger in order to make all Arabs aware that the Zionists have far-reaching ambitions and goals in our region. In his speech at a banquet in his honour in Sana'a, King Hussein made this picture clear and also pointed to the sad conditions now prevailing in the Arab World due to divisions, disputes and differences. Such conditions have left the Arab Nation in a state of paralysis, unable to move or to take a meaningful action in defending itself and its people. King Hussein said in his speech that Jordan seeks to breathe life into joint Arab action and to mobilise Arab resources and potentials for liberating Palestine, and regaining the rights of the Palestinian people. We hope that King Hussein's efforts will achieve good results and his calls for action receive favourable response from Arab leaders.

Anti-apartheid movement in U.S. now one year old

By Sue Baker
Reuter

WASHINGTON — In the year since daily apartheid protests began in the United States, a drive to end American investment in South Africa has gathered force and President Reagan has reversed his policy on sanctions.

The Free South Africa Movement claims at least partial credit for those events. The violence in South Africa that has claimed over 800 lives in 20 months, and was heaped nightly into millions of American homes until a recent dampdown of foreign news coverage by Pretoria, probably did the rest.

"We set out to achieve three things," said Randall Robinson, director of TransAfrica, a black foreign policy lobbying group, and founder of the U.S. protest movement that began at South Africa's embassy here on November 21, 1984.

"First, to inform the American public. Second, to change policy," he said, adding the first is already largely achieved.

"We have also achieved a part of the second objective with the imposition of the sanctions — meaning a repudiation of Reagan's policy of constructive engagement (quiet diplomatic pressure without sanctions)," he told Reuters in an interview.

The third goal, Robinson said, was to see America and other industrial nations impose "irresistible sanctions in such a fashion that the South Africans have no choice but to come to the table and start a Lancaster (House)-type process."

The Lancaster House agreement negotiated in London in 1979 paved the way for the peaceful transition of power from white-ruled Rhodesia to black-ruled Zimbabwe after 14 years of concerted U.N. and Western punitive measures.

Robinson said: "It is important now for the United States, Britain,

West Germany, and to some extent Japan and Canada, to make clear to South Africa — in the same way that (Rhodesian prime minister) Ian Smith understood — that the jig is up."

Earlier this year, Reagan ended his opposition to economic sanctions against Pretoria and approved a limited programme curtailing bank loans, the export of nuclear equipment and U.S. sales of computer equipment among its major points.

TransAfrica, formed in 1977 to lobby for an end to white rule in Rhodesia, and the Free South Africa Movement pledge to continue to lobby Congress for tougher sanctions and maintain their daily protests until apartheid is abolished.

Explaining the value organisers place on the continuing daily demonstrations, Robinson said: "You change policy in this country when you constrain political leadership to account to an enlightened public."

Since the first protest last year, in which Robinson, Washington congressional representative Walter Fauntroy and U.S. Civil Rights Commission member Mary Berry were arrested, more than 3,600 demonstrators have been taken into custody outside the South African embassy.

However none of those arrested, who are liable for charges under a law barring demonstrations within 160 yards of an embassy, has been prosecuted in what TransAfrica says is a deliberate effort by the embassy and the Reagan administration to deny a public platform to the protesters.

Even so, the protests gained wide publicity in the early months with arrests of prominent citizens including members of Congress, mayors, religious, civil rights and labour leaders and entertainers such as rock star Stevie Wonder.

Although there have been fewer "newsworthy" arrests recently and media attention has

waned, the protests have achieved their goal, rare in America, of arousing public opinion and emotion on a foreign policy issue. Robinson admits the arrests have been uneven but denies the protests are losing steam.

Thousands are expected to attend a special anniversary protest outside the embassy on November 27 when the final few of one million signatures will be added to a "freedom letter," he hopes to deliver in person to Nobel Peace Prize laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu in Johannesburg next month.

Robinson said the letter was a "very important... statement from the American people to Desmond Tutu as a symbol of broad U.S. resistance to apartheid."

He said the movement also plans to expand its campaign from the regular protests in Washington and some 26 other cities to include a boycott of the headquarters of selected U.S. companies which "insist on doing business with

South Africa." A disinvestment campaign, in which dozens of states, cities and universities have sold stocks worth about \$5.4 billion in companies doing business with South Africa, has been partially responsible for a flight of American business investment from South Africa this year.

Robinson himself would like to see all U.S. firms withdraw from South Africa.

Despite the refusal by South African President P.W. Botha to consider the principal demand from his country's black majority — one-person, one-vote in a unitary state — Robinson believes change is not far off, although he refuses to predict how or when.

"We don't know how much time there is," he said. "We're racing against lethargy in the West and hurrying events in South Africa... over which the government has no control."

U.S. aides see immediate improvements unlikely

By Andrew Nibley
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Senior U.S. officials, careful to avoid dampening President Ronald Reagan's post-summit euphoria, say that a major breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet relations is unlikely soon.

"We got very friendly," Reagan told reporters on Thursday as he landed in Brussels to brief NATO officials on his two-day meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said it appeared Reagan even liked Gorbachev.

But in a series of post-summit interviews, administration officials said all was not peace and harmony at the first superpower summit in six years, despite television pictures of the leaders smiling, joking and shaking hands.

"There is a tendency every time you guys write a story about them smiling and joking together for people to get excited and say 'here comes an arms control agreement.' That is not the way it works," said one official.

"Let's not make too much of this (friendship)," said another. "Let's just say they don't hate each other."

The officials, who requested anonymity, stressed they thought the two-day summit was a good way for the two leaders to meet and assess each other.

The officials said discussion at times was very lively, particularly on Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" space defence shield programme and on regional conflicts such as Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and U.S. intervention in Central America.

A senior administration official, who was present during the summit talks, commented: "Reagan had a number of comments that probably were not music to Mr. Gorbachev's ears."

U.S. officials said that throughout the summit, the leaders never used each other's first names. It was "Mr. Reagan" and "Mr. Gorbachev" or "Mr. President" and "Mr. General Secretary."

During the president's flight home, senior arms control adviser Paul Nitze told reporters there

was still "an enormous gap" between U.S. and Soviet positions despite a summit-ending statement by the leaders that they had agreed to accelerate the arms control dialogue.

The statement itself required quite a bit of haggling between the two sides, administration officials said. It was agreed in the early morning only a few hours before it was made public.

Despite being cautious, the officials were encouraged by some summit developments. They detected a new tone in Moscow's attitude towards a settlement in Afghanistan and were pleased with Gorbachev's apparent willingness not to tie all issues to star wars.

The agreement that Gorbachev would visit the U.S. next year while Reagan would travel to the Soviet Union in 1987 heartened some officials who believed the top-level dialogue must continue for relations to improve.

But other officials commented there was a risk the world might expect more concrete results from the next summit. After Geneva, it could not be another get-acquainted session.

Reagan, 74, is America's oldest president and wants a place in history as a peacemaker. He has little more than three years before he leaves office.

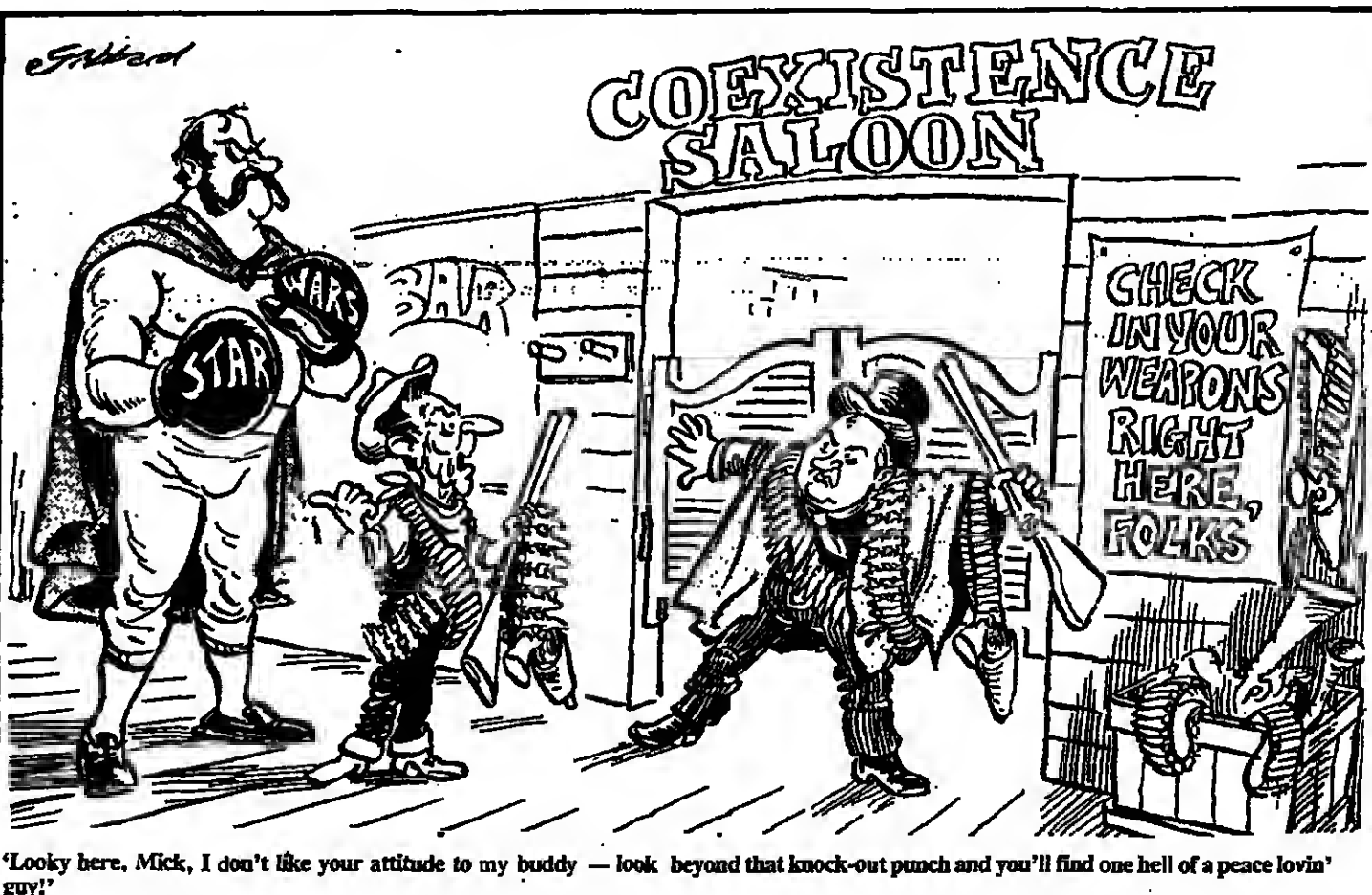
During his second term, Reagan has backed away from the harsh anti-Communist rhetoric of his earlier years, which added to the strain in superpower relations.

Gorbachev, 54, the youngest leader since Josef Stalin, wants to create a strong Soviet economy. To do this he needs to divert Soviet resources from military to civilian use.

U.S. analysts say this means he can little afford a space arms race with the U.S. or expensive military interventions.

"Both leaders stand to gain from these summits," one administration official said. "They are going to be cautious but they are not going to blow an opportunity either."

"You cannot dismiss what happened in Geneva as trivia," said another. "This is going to be a very, very slow process. I would not look for a sudden thaw in relations."



Harsh Israeli censorship fails to quell the voice of Palestinian press

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

JERUSALEM — Despite Israeli censorship, Palestinian newspapers and magazines published in the occupied West Bank have established themselves as focal points of nationalist sentiments.

The four daily newspapers and dozen periodicals based in occupied Jerusalem have a growing readership and rising influence among the 1.3 million Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation since the 1967 Middle East war.

While maintaining a vehemently anti-Israeli line, some are turning from shrill propagandistic tones to more matter-of-fact reporting. They believe better journalism will bolster credibility and increase circulation.

Israeli officials, whose own Arabic language newspaper failed, say the existence of such publications blasting away daily at the Jewish state proved Israel's occupation is benign.

"The Israelis are not doing us favours," says Radwan Abu Ayyash, president of the Arab Journalists' Association in the occupied territories.

Speaking in the well-appointed offices of the Palestine Press Services (PPS) in east Jerusalem, he says: "Israel uses us to show how liberal it is supposed to be. So we have no qualms using the opening to advance the cause of a Pal-

estian state headed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Hanna Siniora, editor-in-chief of the daily Al Fajr (the dawn), says Israeli liberalism is a myth: "The Israeli censor is the editor-in-chief here, not me. He has the final word on what goes into my newspaper."

Military censors do not give interviews. An Israeli official involved with the Arab press, speaking on condition he would not be identified, argued that the local Arab press was "probably freer than most of those in the Arab World. I doubt it will be as free if and when there is a Palestinian state."

"We are at war and the censors' job is to make sure nothing is published that can jeopardize security or incite disorders or violence," the official said.

Arab newsmen say up to a quarter of their copy falls under the censors' scissors. Recently, the daily Al Shaab (the people) had four editorials censored in seven days.

Regulations forbid newspapers reporting items that have been suppressed. Readers have learnt that censors are to blame when bland announcements appear apologising for missing editorials.

One play Palestinian newsmen say they use to circumvent the censors is to leak a story to an Israeli newspaper, then publish it as "according to the Zionist

press." Outright contravention of censorship can result in a temporary halt of publication, though Israeli officials say this was applied only once in the past two and a half years.

Siniora, a leading nationalist personality in his own right, says two journalists on his staff are in jail and three are under town arrest. Israeli officials say jailed newsmen are held for guerrilla-linked activities, not for their stories.

But Siniora says there is constant harassment and that he sees little evidence of official efforts to find out what happened to one of his staffers who disappeared last month near Hebron investigating fraudulent land sales.

The weekly news magazine Al Bayader Assiyasi (the heart of the political world) was recently banned for two weeks from distribution on the West Bank, but not in east Jerusalem, for failing to submit to censors an exclusive interview with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

With a circulation of around 15,000, the magazine is a financial success, even attracting advertising from Israeli companies. Nonetheless, the ban seriously hurt the weekly through lost sales, says publisher Jack Hazmo.

Financing is a delicate issue. Receipt of funds from PLO groups will result in the indefinite shutting down of a publication.

Israeli specialists believe smaller publications get aid, directly or indirectly, from many Arab sources.

The Palestine Press Service, which publishes the bi-monthly Al Awdah (the return) in English and Arabic, is wary of being called "the PLO's West Bank press office" because of the help and prized tip-off service it offers foreign reporters.

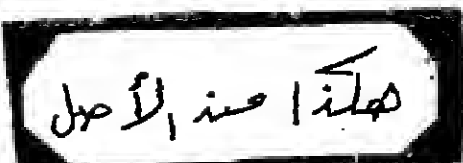
PPS head Ibrahim Karaeen said police accusations that it is financed by Fatah movement were false. He does say he could not function without grants from the World Council of Churches and other outsiders.

The most financially stable of the dailies is Al Juds (Jerusalem) with a circulation of about 15,000.

"I read it because it has more sports and human interest. Recently it had a story about the fat, test man in the world. One needs to be entertained as well as informed," says office worker Omar Abul Hawa.

Some Israelis say the Palestinian press is tolerated because it keeps some of the West Bank's brightest talents busy with journalism and away from clandestine activity.

"Ours is a national task, to maintain the flame of Palestine alive but also to become good objective newsmen," says U.S.-educated Daoud Kuttab of Al Fajr's English edition.



Burning the last straw

What happens when all the fuelwood is gone? Does burning dung, straw and crop stalks make good sense, or is it endangering soil fertility and food production? Geoffrey Barnard works for the Earthscan Energy Information Programme. He is co-author with Lars Kristoferson, of Earthscan's new technical report: "Agricultural Residues as Fuel in the Third World," which is available from Earthscan, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, U.K.

LONDON — For millions of people in the Third World the fuelwood crisis is already over. Firewood, for all practical purposes, has run out.

Once the trees are gone, there is not much left to burn. The only readily available, cheap substitutes are straw, crop stalks and animal dung — and the poor are increasingly relying on these to cook their food and heat their homes.

But what are the effects of burning these "agricultural residues"? They have important uses as animal fodder, building materials and organic fertilisers. Will burning agricultural residues wreck the soil and undermine the whole farming system? Farmers disagree — and so do many scientists.

In the densely populated river valleys of the world — the Nile, Ganges, Brahmaputra and Yangtze — dung and straw burning has been going on for hundreds of years. These areas were deforested long ago, and large populations could only have survived by finding alternative fuels.

What is new is the scale of agricultural residue burning. As many as 800 million people now

rely on residues for the major part of their energy needs, according to World Bank energy specialist David Hugart.

The greatest concentration of residue burning is in the densely populated plains of northern India, Bangladesh and China. Here, dung and crop residues provide as much as 90 per cent of household energy needs in many villages.

Dung is burnt in cities too; in Delhi, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and other Indian towns, dungcakes can be seen drying on pavements, walls, and even lampposts. For the urban poor, they are an essential fuel.

Residues are also burnt in many parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. In some cases, their role is relatively minor; crop stalks are used, for example, as a supplementary fuel at harvest time. But in Ethiopia, Lesotho, parts of the Sahel, highland Peru, and other areas where wood is very scarce, surveys show that agricultural residues frequently provide more than half of family fuel needs.

By turning to agricultural residues, people can increase the supply of fuel available to them and decrease the labour required

to collect it. On most farms, the amount of residues produced each year is surprisingly large. Healthy animals produce five times their own weight in dung each year, while most cereal crops produce more straw than grain. For a high-yielding rice or maize crop, this can mean six to eight tonnes of straw per hectare.

Using these residues for fuel may provide a temporary solution to a family's energy problems. But what will the long-term consequences be? Some soil specialists argue that burning dung and crop residues is robbing the soil of badly needed nutrients that would otherwise be recycled. Organic matter plays a vital role in soil fertility, in binding the soil together, making it easier to till, helping prevent erosion and improving water retention.

But some crop residues are tough and woody — for example, coconut shells, maize cobs and jute sticks. Since these decompose very slowly in the soil and cannot easily be recycled, it makes good sense to use them as fuel.

In Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma and a number of other countries, large amounts of rice straw are burnt in the fields each year just to get rid of them. In some, official laws state that cotton stalks have to be burnt to avoid the spread of crop diseases. In such cases, crop residues may represent a major untapped energy resource.

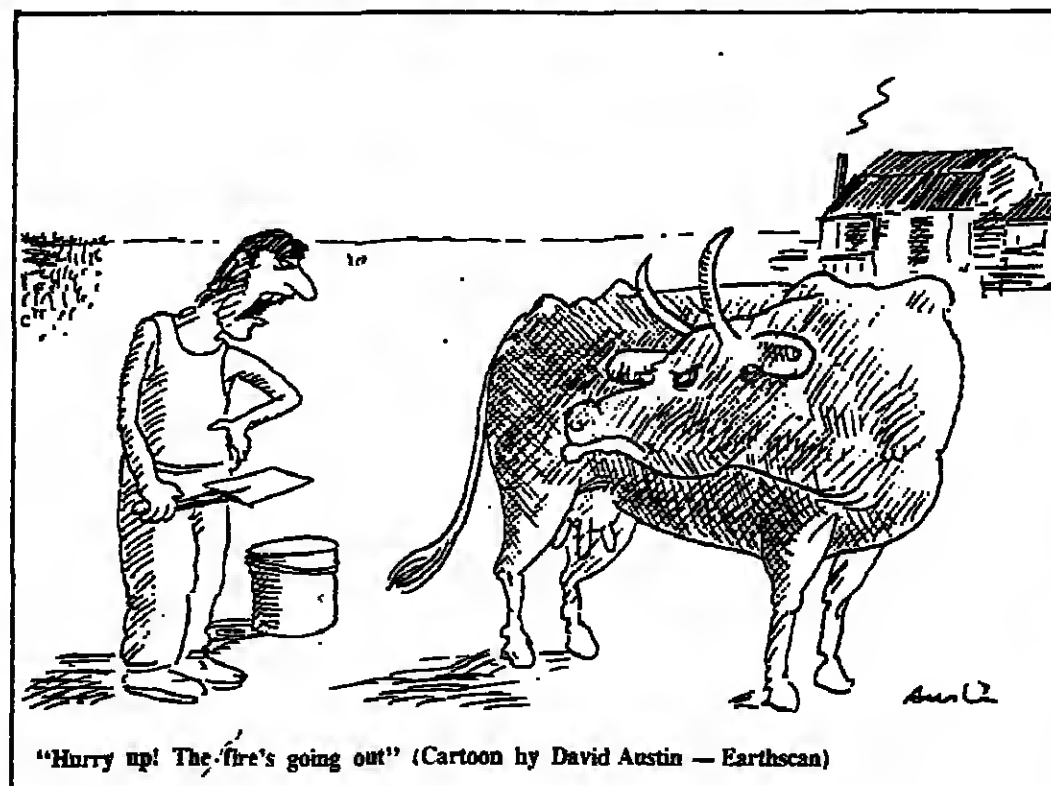
Even dung burning may make sense in some cases, according to soil physicist Dr. G.C. Aggarwal,

of the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India. Because of the relatively low nutrient content of animal manure compared to modern chemical fertilisers, "burning of dung is a far better use, in terms of energy and economic returns, than its use as a manure." In other words, it is cheaper to burn dung and buy fertiliser, than to recycle the dung and have to pay for an alternative fuel.

Farmers interviewed in Dasna village in Uttar Pradesh States agree, saying that animal manure is no longer as important as it used to be, since chemical fertilisers are now widely available. Only the dung produced in the rainy season, which cannot easily be dried and humed, goes back to the fields.

Around Ranikhet, however, in the hills of northern Uttar Pradesh, the farmers give a very different picture. Here most of the farmers are too poor to afford chemical fertilisers. Recycling animal manure is the only way to maintain crop yields. Even if their wives have to trek for hours to obtain firewood, farmers say they cannot jeopardise food production by burning any dung.

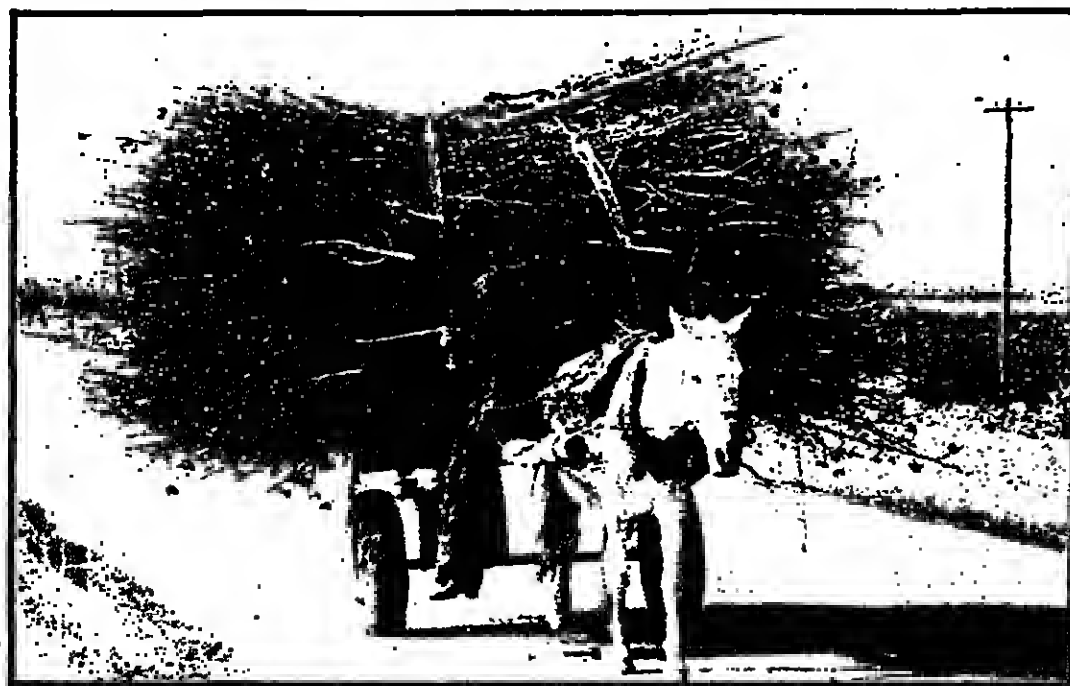
As fuelwood becomes scarcer, some families, especially those who can pay for fertilisers, may be able to rely on dung and crop residues as an "energy safety net". But for others, this safety net may not work so well. In areas where farming systems are already under stress from deforestation, erosion and soil degradation, burning agricultural residues may represent the last straw, the last turn in a downhill ecological spiral. — Earthscan feature.



"Hurry up! The fire's going out!" (Cartoon by David Austin — Earthscan)



Making dungcakes in Haryana, North India. These are stored in dung-smear silos to keep them dry during the rainy season. In many villages, dungcakes are now the principal source of fuel (Photo by Mark Edwards — Earthscan)



Raqqa, Syria — A load of cotton stalks is taken home to be used for fuel (Photo by Peter Chisworth — Earthscan)

U.N. agency to study warming trend

By David Cray
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The chief climate expert for the United Nations Environment Programme said last Monday the agency plans extensive research over the next few years on the impact of the global warming trend known as the "Greenhouse Effect."

Peter Usher, climatologist at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, said he and other participants at a conference last month in Austria agreed that the average global temperature was likely to rise several degrees in the next 50 years because of the "Greenhouse Effect."

Scientists use the term to describe the results of increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere. The warming trend caused by this phenomenon is expected to raise the sea level by melting polar ice and cause significant climatic changes.

A report issued at the conference in Austria said that if the levels of carbon dioxide and other trace gases continue to increase at the present rate, the average global temperature will rise between 1.5 degrees and 4.5 degrees Celsius by the mid-21st century.

Usher, who briefed reporters on the results of the conference, said in a subsequent interview that UNEP had hired a consultant to examine the social, economic and political consequences of these changes.

"We can't leave it aside forever," Usher said. "People have said this kind of study should wait until we sort out the physical aspects of the problem, but we've come to the stage where we have to think seriously about it."

The consultant hired by UNEP is Dr. William Clark, an American working at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis outside Vienna, Austria, Usher said.

Usher described the Greenhouse Effect as "a very major issue that UNEP will concentrate a lot of its efforts on in the next few years, particularly in the way we can address its social and economic implications."

Usher said UNEP's executive director, Dr. Mostafa Tolba, was considering setting up a task force of prominent scientists to monitor worldwide research on the Greenhouse Effect.

Carbon dioxide, the main contributor to the problem, is released into the air by the combustion of fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. Its future concentrations in the atmosphere will be determined in large measure by whether alternative energy sources are developed.

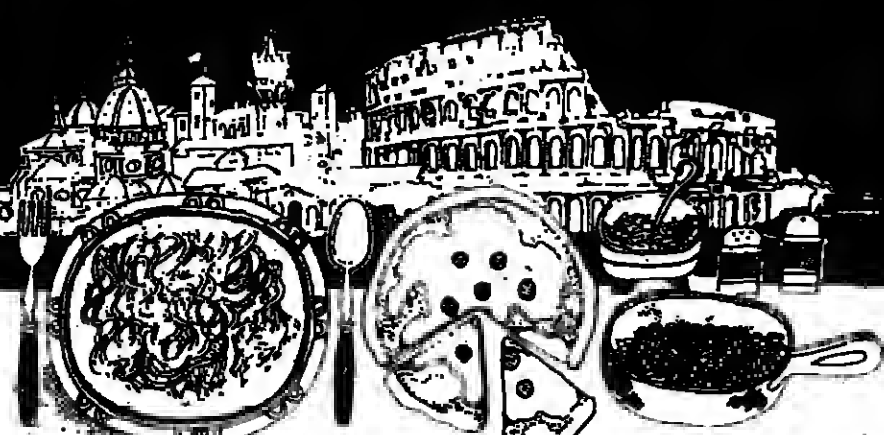
But Usher said other trace gases, particularly chlorofluorocarbons such as those released from aerosol spray cans, were becoming a larger part of the problem. He said UNEP was trying to encourage individual nations to restrict the release of these gases.

Usher said scientists were not sure whether Africa's recent droughts were related to the Greenhouse Effect.

He said there were plans to open a major climate research centre in Nairobi within the next few years that would be able to examine such questions.

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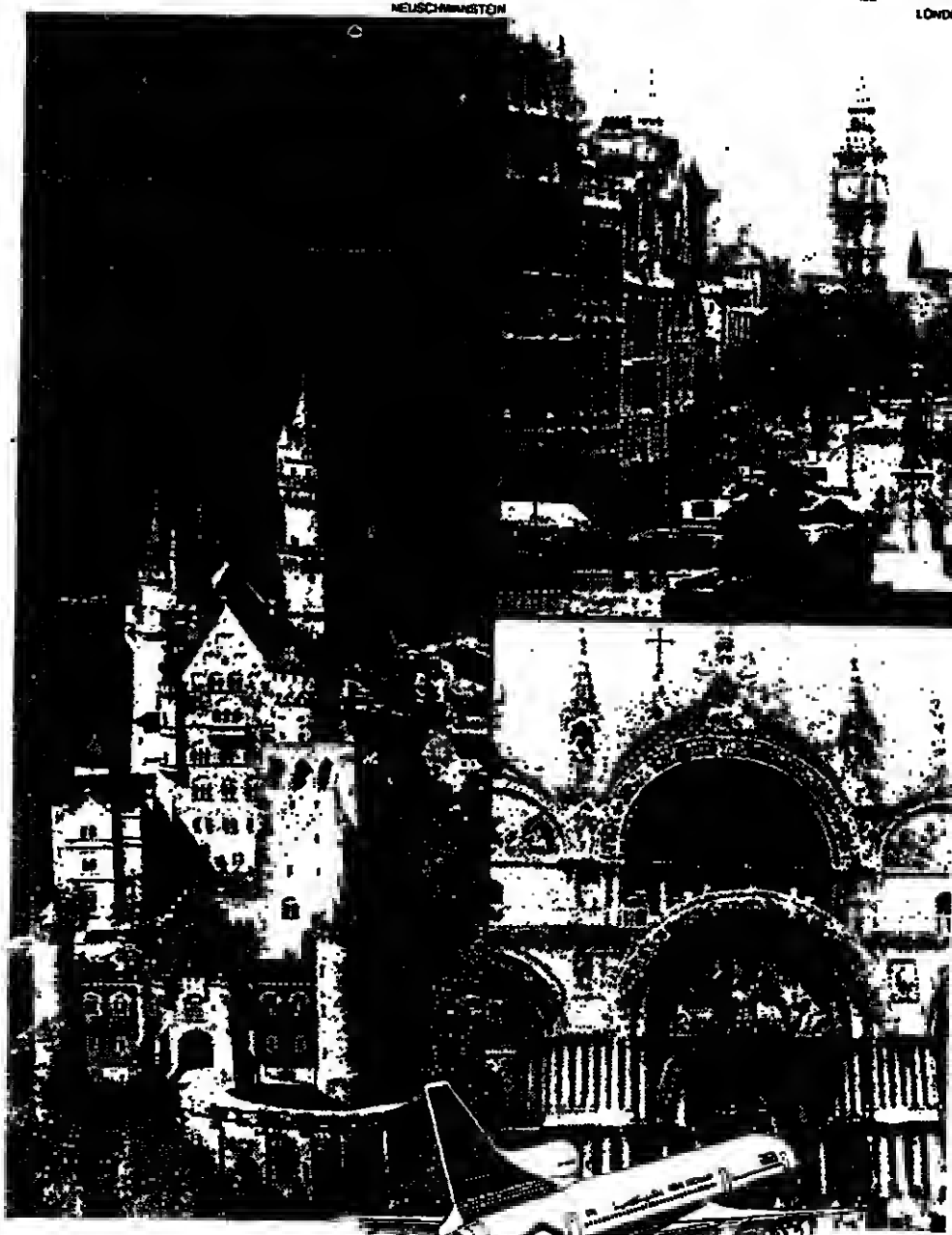
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United stumbles badly, Liverpool closes gap

LONDON (R) — English league pacesetters Manchester United were almost reeled in by the chasing first division pack Saturday after sliding to a miserable 3-0 defeat at struggling Leicester.

Two goals by Alan Smith and another by Scott Gary McAllister sent disorganised and disorientated United crashing to only their second defeat of the season. The result reduced United's advantage over closest challengers Liverpool, 2-0 winners at Birmingham, to just two points. Three weeks ago it was an emphatic 1-0.

United could surrender the first division leadership for the first time this season next Saturday if they falter at home to Watford and Liverpool take full points from the visit of Chelsea.

Player-manager Kenny Dalglish's decision to keep himself on the sidelines in favour of Paul Walsh paid rich dividends as Liverpool swept ahead at Birmingham.

Welsh marksman Ian Rush and

the transfer-listed Walsh netted after nine and 26 minutes respectively as mediocre Birmingham slumped to their eighth successive league defeat.

McAllister plunged the league leaders into trouble after only six minutes, bewitching the static United defenders on the edge of the penalty area and shooting into goalkeeper Gary Bailey's corner.

United, who began the game with Scottish midfielder Gordon Strachan playing wide on the left in the absence of former England winger Peter Barnes, were forced to re-organise minutes later when defender Arthur Albiston limped off.

But before they could introduce substitute Alan Brazil, Smith pounced on Kevin Moran's poor back-pass to hit the second in the 15th minute. Smith struck again

on the half-hour to complete United's misery and clinch Leicester's first home win for nearly two months.

Scotland striker David Speedie scored seven minutes from time to snatch Chelsea's 2-1 win over Aston Villa which kept them third on 36 points — four behind Liverpool.

Frank McAvennie, who scored on his debut for Scotland in their World Cup playoff against Australia on Wednesday, found the net again to steer West Ham to a 1-0 win at Coventry which kept them fourth and stretched their unbeaten run to 14 games.

Sheffield Wednesday, 2-1 winners over Southampton, stay fifth, level on 35 points with West Ham. England striker Kerry Dixon opened the scoring for Chelsea in the 32nd minute before veteran Scott Gray levelled the scores two minutes later.

Both sides seemed ready to share the honours until Speedie pounced to claim maximum points for the Londoners.

Paris Saint-Germain extend lead

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain extended their runaway lead at the top of the French first division Friday night when they beat Toulouse 3-0 while nearest challengers Bordeaux suffered a 1-0 defeat at Lens.

PSG, who meet Bordeaux next week, produced their strongest form to extend their unbeaten run to 21 games and stretch their lead in six points as they swept Toulouse aside with ease.

Dominique Rocheteau opened the scoring after 16 minutes when he completed a fluent move involving Luis Fernandez and Safet Susic and Jean-Francois Chabonnier added the second 14 minutes later.

French international midfielder Fernandez scored the third himself in the 66th minute.

PSG's six-point lead could be extended to seven if a commission enquiry accepts the result of their

abandoned match at Lille as 1-1, the score when a power cut stopped play last week.

Defending champions Bordeaux's game at Lens was a dull and defensive affair played on a slippery snow-covered pitch.

Bordeaux managed to keep the scoresheet blank until the interval but were beaten in the 75th minute when Lens' Uruguayan striker Daniel Carrenon latched onto a pass from midfielder Francis Gillet to put them ahead.

Third-placed Nantes, two points behind Bordeaux, play Strasbourg at home Saturday when lively Toulouse also meet eighth-placed Monaco.

In other matches Friday night, there were no surprises. Metz beat struggling Sochaux 2-1. Nancy thrashed Lille 3-0. Brest beat Laval 2-1. Auxerre beat Le Havre 3-0. Nice won 1-0 against Marseilles and Rennes defeated Bastia 3-1.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Khan advances in spite of bruised chin

CAIRO (R) — Defending champion Jahangir Khan of Pakistan cruised into the semifinals of the World Open Squash Championship Saturday, despite an accidental blow to his chin, when he beat Australian Ross Thorne 9-2, 9-2, 9-3. Jahangir, hiding for his fifth consecutive world title, was leading 5-0 in the first game when he was hit on the chin by Thorne's racket and he immediately left the court to receive first aid. Returning a few minutes later, Jahangir lost two points before he regained serve and swept to victory 9-2. Thorne, the 10th seed, took a 2-0 lead in the second game but the 21-year-old Pakistani then reeled of nine points to win by a similar margin.

U.S. volleyball team beats Soviets

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — The U.S. beat the Soviet Union 11-15, 19-17, 15-9, 9-15, 15-1 Saturday in the eight-nation men's World Cup Volleyball Tournament. In the decisive final set, the U.S. team, which won the gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics last year, overcame an 11-5 deficit to beat the Soviets in a 3½ hours at Osaka Central Gymnasium in Western Japan. "We have now proved that we captured the gold medal at the Olympics on our own accord — not because of the absence of the Soviet team," U.S. captain Karch Kiraly said.

W.German accused of cheating Karpov

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — A newsman has been arrested on suspicion of embezzling \$577,000 entrusted to him by Soviet chess star Anatoly Karpov, a prosecutor said. Hamburg prosecutor Peter Beck said Thursday that Helmut Jungwirth, who works for West Germany's NDR radio and television, was placed in investigative custody one week ago to prevent him from fleeing possible prosecution. Jungwirth, a West German radio and television moderator, allegedly was to funnel money to Karpov from a Hong Kong-based computer company which used Karpov's name and likeness to advertise chess computers in the West. Beck said.

Altabelli and Rummenigge team up

ROME (AP) — Two of soccer's most dynamic strikers, Italian international Alessandro Altabelli and West German centre forward Karl Heinz Rummenigge, team up Sunday for Internazionale of Milan's crucial clash with league leader Juventus. Inter fans breathed a collective sigh of relief when Altabelli, who was the second top goalscorer in Italy last year with 17 tallies, received only a warning from a disciplinary committee Wednesday. The Inter striker had expected to be suspended after he was sent off in his team's championship game, a hard fought 1-1 draw with Napoli.

Lendl to quit Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup team

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked tennis player, has apparently decided to quit Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup team, the West German Sports News Agency SID quoted his manager Jerry Solomon as saying Thursday. In a dispatch from New York, SID also said Solomon denied reports that Lendl had applied for U.S. citizenship. "After a protracted dispute with the (Czechoslovakia's tennis) federation, Lendl will most probably withdraw from the Davis Cup," SID quoted Solomon as saying.

Platini: the spirit of French soccer

By Derek Parr
Reuser

PARIS — On the eve of his team's vital World Cup soccer tie against Yugoslavia, French captain Michel Platini pledged he would end a barren period of almost a year without scoring a goal for his country.

The following night, he kept his word. A masterly free-kick and a stinging left-foot shot carried France to victory and a place in the finals in Mexico next year and enlarged Platini's international tally to a record 39 goals.

Asked how he produced such inspired goals, Platini replied: "I don't know. I closed my eyes."

It was a simple, typically disarming answer from a man who has been elevated to the status of a legend in French sport.

Platini, like the favourite French comic-strip hero Asterix, is a star who can be relied on to outwit foreign invaders who danger threatens, a soccer scorer with a sense of occasion.

He worked his magic once again last weekend when his team needed it most, outjuggling the goals to dispel the doubts and whisk France to their third consecutive appearance in the World Cup Finals.

Platini has illuminated the French team for a decade. In addition to the last three World Cup Final tournaments, he guided them to triumph at the 1984 European Championship.

Mexico will mark the end of several of the seasoored core of players first assembled by Michel Hidalgo — but there has been no final word from Platini, now past the soccer player's landmark of his 30th birthday.

Platini played and scored on his debt in Hidalgo's first match in charge against Czechoslovakia in Paris in March 1976 and a World Cup winner's medal is one of the few prizes in soccer missing from his collection.

The man to the number 10 shirt won the French Cup with Nancy and the league with Saint-Etienne before joining Juventus after the 1982 World Cup.

Italian League and Cup titles and European Cup Winners Cup and Champions' Cup was followed. He was European Footballer of the Year twice in a row. Television and advertising contracts earned him a second fortune off the pitch.

This week, Platini flew into Paris and stayed long enough to receive yet another trophy — as the Italian League's top scorer for

a third consecutive season — before hastening to a training session with Juventus.

It was a typical episode in the lifestyle of a man who, last April, was created Chevalier of the Legion of the Honour, a tribute to the rare panache of a man who had led France in their conquest of Europe.

His contribution in turning a fine team into an exceptional one mirrored the influences of Pele on Brazil, Franz Beckenbauer on West Germany and Johan Cruyff on the Dutch.

"The French team resembles Platini. One can even say it is his. It is so bound to the output of its king," proclaimed the weekly France Football.

"It breathes through him and it may be said in passing, it is certainly a shame that certain tricolours do not breathe the same oxygen..."

"In an average performance and two strokes of genius, Platini once again tipped a match which was turning out badly in favour of the tricolours. Platini always amazes us by the extra-terrestrial aspect of his game..."

Opposing defences have been equally bamboozled by Platini's flair for the unexpected.

In 1977, he scored in a 3-1 win over Bulgaria which carried France to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1966.

Four years later he repeated the trick, helping France beat The Netherlands to open a World Cup road to Spain which ended in Seville. There, despite another Platini goal, France lost nerve-tangling semifinal against West Germany.

In the 1984 European Championship finals, he scored in all five matches, including hat-tricks against Belgium and Yugoslavia, a last-gasp semifinal winner against Portugal and the opening goal in the 2-0 final victory over Spain. Inevitably he was named Player of the Tournament.

Last January, Platini said there was an 80 per cent chance he would end his playing career in 1986. After last May's disastrous riot at the European Cup final in Brussels, he said he thought he would stop after the World Cup.

In the qualifying programme, France had a tough time against Bulgaria. East Germany and Yugoslavia in European Group Four and Platini admitted they had not played well against Yugoslavia. But, he pointed out: "The essential thing is we know we can improve a lot."

Navratilova faces Mandlikova in New South Wales final

SYDNEY (R) — Martina Navratilova clinched her place in the final of the New South Wales Women's Open Tennis Championships and with it a chance to avenge her U.S. Open final defeat by Hana Mandlikova when she beat former compatriot Helena Sukova Saturday.

But the American top seed was forced to dig deep into her reserves for a hard-fought 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 semifinal victory over Sukova.

20, to avenge the shattering of her "Grand Slam" hopes by the Czechoslovak at last year's Australian Open. It was the best match of the tournament to date.

Mandlikova, hoping to win her first title in Australia for five years, had earlier cruised into Sunday's final with a comfortable 6-0, 7-5 victory over West German's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

The final will be the first meeting of the two since Mandlikova, 23, beat Navratilova at the U.S. Open in September.

But Navratilova is not looking at the match as simply a chance to get revenge for that defeat and

fully expects a very tough struggle.

"It'll basically be a matter of who gets the more first serves in because each of us will be attacking the second serve for sure," she said.

Sukova, seeded sixth, gave an early indication that she was out about to surrender easily Saturday with a salvo of cannon-like serves. Navratilova was rattled and Sukova broke her in the fifth game to take the initiative and then the set.

But it was a different story in the second set as the Navratilova of old — the one who loves a good scrap — came to the fore. She broke in the opening game and survived an incredible eight break points on her own serve in the seventh to go into a 5-2 lead.

The third set was a delight. Navratilova hit form and broke Sukova in the third and fifth games to storm to a 4-1 lead and the match was all but over.

Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak number one and ranked third in the world, was never required to exert herself against luckless Kohde-Kilsch. The 21-year-old West German appeared to strain a leg muscle early on and could not stretch for the ball.

Mandlikova made the most of her advantage and played some fine volleys. Afterwards she said she was ready to meet Navratilova again and paid some credit for her new-found verve and confidence to a more carefully-controlled diet.

"I feel stronger and think my game is starting to come together well," she said.

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اسمك في قلبك

Dollar drops again

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The dollar fell again Friday in New York as pessimism set in about congressional determination to come to grips with the U.S. budget deficit, dealers said.

"There is very little justification in buying the dollar at the moment," said one trader at a major U.S. bank.

The U.S. economy, though it grew at 4.3 per cent in the third quarter, shows few signs of bounding ahead at the rate some traders would like and a long-awaited legislative accord on controlling the huge federal budget deficit failed to emerge from Congress last week, traders noted.

The dollar closed the week at 2.5690 West German marks compared with 2.5785 the previous day. The U.S. currency also fell to 201 Japanese yen from 201.05 Thursday, coming close to the key 200 level for the first time in almost five years.

The Swiss franc firmed to 2.10 to the dollar and the British pound rose to \$1.4615, compared with \$2.1105 and \$1.4465 respectively on Thursday.

The dollar was also weakened by Friday's news on the U.S. economic and fiscal front. A slight rise in October consumer prices to 0.3 per cent and a shortfall of \$27.09 billion between what the government took in and what it spent last month added to doubts about the economy's vigour.

The stock prices edged higher to close at another record on the New York Stock Exchange Friday in lighter trading after Thursday's big gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.06 to a new peak of 1,464.44 after soaring 23.05 points Thursday. In five days of trading last week the index advanced 29.24 points, mainly because of optimism about the outlook for the U.S. economy.

The average price per share Friday increased three cents and advances led declines by 556 to 623. The volume of shares traded fell to 133.75 million from 150.32 million on Thursday.

Mr. Alfred Harris of Josephthal and Co. said stocks were responding to a disinflationary trend, with lower interest rates and moderate inflation spurring higher share prices.

"There will probably be some profit-taking soon but it's not going to change the trend," Mr. Harris said. "The trend is working."

A weaker U.S. dollar again helped stocks of drug companies, which do much of their business abroad and earn higher profits if the dollar is cheaper.

Squibb gained 1 1/2 to 75 1/2. Schering Plough rose 2 1/4 to \$58. Upjohn 1/2 to \$133 1/2. American Home Products 1 1/2 to \$60 1/4 and Merck 1 1/2 to \$125 1/2.

On the American stock exchange, prices closed higher in heavy trading with the index up 0.64 to 241.41.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee on Friday night reshaped and approved President Ronald Reagan's plan for the most sweeping tax overhaul since the federal income tax was imposed 72 years ago.

Kremlin reorganises agriculture, administration of food supplies

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Friday announced a major reorganisation of its agriculture and food supply administration, merging five ministries into one unit.

An official decree said a new agro-industrial committee, to be known by its acronym Gosagroprom, would have responsibility for managing the sector.

It will be headed by Mr. Vsevolod Murakhovsky, whose appointment as a first deputy prime minister was announced only three weeks ago.

Agriculture has traditionally been a trouble spot in the centrally-planned Soviet economy, especially in recent years when a succession of poor harvests forced the Kremlin into costly and politically embarrassing purchases of U.S. grain.

The decree, carried by the state news agency TASS and read on television news, was issued by the council of ministers and the central committee of the ruling Communist Party.

It said the new body would be the central state organ for managing the country's agro-industrial complex.

With the governments of the 15 Soviet republics, Gosagroprom will be responsible for increasing production, ensuring targets for farm produce purchases are met, storage, high quality processing and "a significant increase" in the range of foodstuffs on sale to the consumer.

By Western standards, Soviet state foodshops have a very poor range of goods although foodstuffs are cheap.

Many Soviet shoppers prefer to pay the higher prices of the officially-sanctioned private markets where peasants can offer a far greater variety of produce from their private plots.

The ministries to be merged are those of agriculture, fruit and vegetable production, the meat and dairy industry, food industry and agricultural construction as well as the state committee for production and technical provision of agriculture.

Three other ministries, those of bakery products, land reclamation and water conservation, and fisheries, and the state forestry committee and central consumer cooperatives council are to be centrally planned and financed as a unit with Gosagroprom.

Western agriculture experts have long been predicting a major shakeup in the sector after warnings by Communist Party leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, that major changes were needed.

During a visit to the grain-producing republic of Kazakhstan in September, he told party officials the Soviet Union was wasting valuable foreign currency of grain imports.

Last week, agriculture minister, Mr. Valentin Mesyats, was relieved of his post and appointed Communist Party chief of the Moscow region, a move most Western experts saw as demotion.

The decree warned that the new committee should not manage too oppressively or usurp the responsibility of regional and farm bosses.

Turks, contractors sign agreement to build second Iraqi oil pipeline

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish-Italian consortium Friday signed an agreement with the Turkish pipeline authority Botas to build the Turkish section of a second pipeline for Iraqi oil exports, a consortium spokesman said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Jassem Ahmad Taqi and Turkish Finance Minister Ahmet Kurbet Alpemecin looked on as representatives of Saipem SPA of Italy and Turkish construction firms Kuluhas and Tekfen signed the accord with Botas.

The \$255 million deal covers the Turkish part of a 980 kilometre line to run parallel to an existing one from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfield to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik.

Doubling the pipeline is part of Iraq's drive to expand its export channels since war with Iran closed its traditional route through the Gulf.

The same consortium has been awarded a contract from the Iraqi pipeline authority SCOP for construction of the Iraqi section of the line.

Botas is financing the Turkish section with a \$165 million Italian export credit and a \$92 million Euroloan guaranteed by the Turkish state.

The consortium spokesman said work on the second pipeline would start when the credit agreement was signed, probably within the next few weeks, and should be completed in 18 months.

Consortium officials said Iraq was pressing Saipem to accept payment for the \$225 million Iraqi section of the pipeline in oil.

Doubling up the pipeline is intended to increase capacity of the route to 1.5 million barrels per day from one million. An earlier plan for a spur to Turkey's Batman oilfield, where the Iraqi oil was to be mixed with heavy Turkish crude for easier pumping to the coast, was not included in Friday's contract, officials said.

Figures released Friday showed that in the first nine months of 1985 Turkey bought 4.6 million tonnes of oil from Iran and 4.3 million from Iraq, its two biggest suppliers.

U.S., USSR to resume direct air flights in April

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union and the United States have agreed to resume direct flights between the two countries next April after a nearly four-year suspension, the official news agency TASS said Saturday.

TASS said the agreement was reached after negotiations in Moscow and cleared the way for at least four flights a week by the Soviet airline Aeroflot and Pan American Airlines (Pan Am), TASS said.

TASS said Aeroflot would fly to Washington and New York, and Pan Am to Moscow and Leningrad.

No further details were given of the agreement, announced as a tentative accord Friday in Washington.

U.S. embassy spokesman, Mr. Jaroslav Verner, said the accord announced by TASS was still tentative in the sense that legal experts will have to review it before it can be signed.

But he said "the work seems to be done" and that no problems were anticipated. A date and place for a signing ceremony has not

been set.

Direct flights between the United States and the Soviet Union were halted in late 1981 as part of a number of sanctions imposed by President Ronald Reagan's administration in response to the declaration of martial law in Poland and the crackdown on the Solidarity labour movement there.

Pan Am had halted its flights to the Soviet Union in 1978, saying the route was unprofitable.

President Jimmy Carter halted Aeroflot's two weekly flights to New York after the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979. A weekly flight to Washington continued until Mr. Reagan's 1981 ban.

In September 1983, after the Soviets shot down a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747, Mr. Reagan ordered Aeroflot's offices in New York and Washington closed.

The only flights that continued between the two countries were non-commercial special flights bringing Soviet diplomats to the United Nations in New York and to the embassy in Washington.

U.S. air force planes bringing the American ambassador or food and other goods to the U.S. embassy were allowed to land in Moscow.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole said Friday in Washington that the agreement to resume direct commercial flights is "an immediate step" following "on hopes for closer contact between Soviets and Americans expressed by Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, at their Geneva summit."

Despite TASS' announcement, it was not immediately known whether Pan Am will resume its service to the Soviet Union.

Talks on reaching an air-travel agreement reportedly had stalled earlier on Pan Am's efforts to get some guarantee of a share of the U.S.-Soviet tourist trade as a way to ensure a profitable operation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Volcker begins visit to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker arrived Friday for a one-week visit to discuss Argentina's \$50 billion foreign debt and study its anti-inflation programme, government sources said. Mr. Volcker is to meet President Raul Alfonsin and Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, author of a harsh economic programme which has slashed annual inflation to half the 1,100 per cent at which it was running last June. A top-level official source said Mr. Volcker would probably also discuss the so-called Baker Plan which calls for \$20 billion in new commercial bank lending for 15 developing countries over the next three years and further loans from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

India, USSR sign trade agreement

NEW DELHI (R) — India and the Soviet Union Friday signed a four-year trade agreement which is expected to double their trade next year, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. Under the agreement, India can continue to pay for Soviet imports in rupees and seek machinery and equipment from the Soviet Union on a low four-per-cent rate of interest over a 10-year period. Two-way trade with the Soviet Union, one of India's biggest trading partners, has been set to reach \$4.62 billion in 1985 from \$3.84 billion last year.

Exporters consider new sugar accord

LONDON (R) — The world's four major sugar exporters are considering negotiating a new international sugar agreement to stabilise prices but have yet to set a timetable for its advancement, according to delegates to sugar talks here. It is the first time the four — Australia, Brazil, Cuba and the European Community (EC) — have discussed the world's oversupplied market since negotiations aimed at supporting prices broke down in July 1984.

New Zealand journalists to end strike

WELLINGTON (R) — A strike by 1200 New Zealand newspaper and news agency journalists will end on Monday, 11 days after it was launched, their union said Saturday. The walkout was prompted by special exemptions from normal compulsory union membership at the national news agency, the New Zealand Press Association. The issue would now go before an independent conciliator. The strike reduced most of the country's newspapers to free, give-away advertising sheets. The stoppage did not affect television and radio, or newspapers in Auckland and the north of the country where journalists belong to other unions.

LME to halt tin trading until Dec. 6

LONDON (R) — The London Metal Exchange (LME) decided to maintain its suspension of tin trading until at least Dec. 9 to give the International Tin Council (ITC) more time to resolve its financial crisis.

LME chief executive, Mr. Michael Brown, said there would be no trading in the metal up to and including Dec. 6, which falls on a Friday. He gave no date for the resumption of trading.

On Wednesday, the ITC adjourned an emergency meeting until Dec. 2 after its members failed to end the global tin crisis by refusing to accept a rescue package from a group of 16 banks.

The council, which groups 22 tin producing and consuming countries, has pledged to stay in session until it has reached a decision on honouring its debts to the banks and LME members.

The LME, the world's largest metals trading forum, suspended tin transactions on Oct. 24 when the ITC said it no longer had money to support prices.

The ITC has accumulated debts totalling £1 billion (\$1.45 billion) by stockpiling thousands of tonnes of tin to keep supplies from depressing prices in a glutted market.

The group of 16 financial institutions, which is owed \$552 million (\$510 million) by the ITC, has offered to lend the council £900 million (\$1.3 billion) to meet its present debt obligations.

The drive for a way out of the tin crisis has foundered because a majority of ITC member governments have refused to underwrite the financial rescue package.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fine day to tune in on what you can do to gain the things of a practical nature which appeal to your desire for a more secure foundation to your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You want to complete mental work early so that later you can be practical and gain advancements. Try to set up a better budget.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your intimate wishes are very important to you now, but you have to be more practical in order to gain them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't confide your wishes in others or they could easily spoil things for you. Spend as much time as you can with the one you love.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have ideas about how to gain your fondest aims, but these need revision in order to make them successful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't enter into any argument between a family tie and a public figure. Spend time with someone who is sophisticated.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan how to use data you have received so that you can expand your interests and become more successful in the near future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can go from one activity to the other today, but it is best to adhere to the best one otherwise you could make serious errors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) One who is inimical to your best interests could give you trouble during the daytime, but tonight you can be your charming self.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do something that will show you are a true humanitarian today. Plan new outlets for the coming week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You had made appointments for recreation but find that you have to make slight changes now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Soothe the feelings of one who is upset at home and avoid a big argument. Don't do anything yourself to start an argument.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Hit on the right philosophy to follow in the future and meet any test that is presented later in the day.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will lead a very interesting life which brings many changes, so give a fine education that will prepare him or her nicely for seizing every opportunity to get ahead. One who will be good at meeting emergencies. Some musical ability is in this chart.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter G. Snow

ACROSS

- 1 Hamlet's e.p.
- 5 Part of an ear
- 10 Union
- 14 Depraved
- 15 Fine stationery
- 16 Half-of-Famer
- 17 Positions
- 18 Frank
- 19 Reo or Dodge
- 20 Not precise
- 22 Type of crab
- 24 Sort
- 25 Swiss city
- 26 Pedagogical method
- 30 Delighted
- 34 Afghan coins
- 35 Angers
- 37 Man and Wright
- 38 Map abbr.
- 39 Skirt part
- 40 Square meter
- 42 Joke
- 43 Basra native
- 45 Church part
- 47 A star
- 48 Verbal noun
- 50 Outcasts
- 52 Doll
- 54 — de Cologne
- 55 Live together
- 58 Any USSR leader
- 62 Saxophone type
- 63 Complete
- 65 Opinion; prel.
- 66 Part of a nut
- 67 Official stamps
- 68 Two — cloth
- 69 Magnet and
- 70 Disintegrate
- 71 Sailor's saint

DOWN

- 1 Where to find a hero
- 2 Bard's stream
- 3 Mediterranean resort city
- 4 Panacea
- 5 Tuxedo accessory
- 6 Yarn fluff
- 7 Social insect
- 8 Melt
- 9 Repeat
- 10 Phrase
- 11 Small case
- 12 Miss Kett
- 13 Tern
- 21 — King
- 23 Broadway musical
- 25 MIT degree
- 26 Young fellow
- 27 Cicero
- 28 Lucid
- 29 " — le Douce"
- 31 Seaweed
- 32 Bailey or
- 33 Some NCOs
- 36 Imprudence
- 38 Language
- 41 Practice
- 44 Main of La Mancha
- 46 Abyss
- 47 Source of aluminum
- 48 Desperate
- 51 Spill
- 53 Milk's cousin
- 54 Bread's spread
- 57 Lat. abbr.
- 58 Pinchile
- 59 Pedestal
- 60 Occupant
- 61 Fuss
- 64 Confucian truth

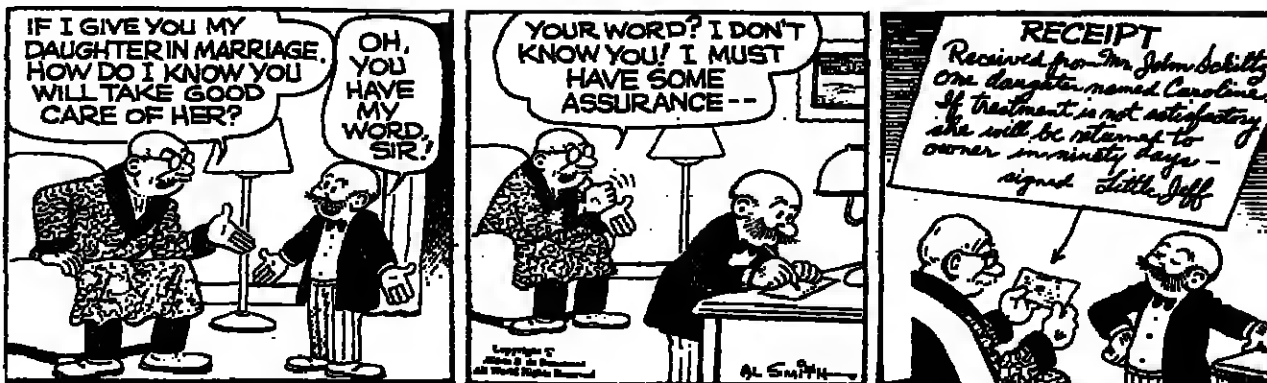
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. HAMLET, 5. PINNACLE, 10. UNION, 14. DEPRAVED, 15. STATIONERY, 16. HALF-OF-FAMER, 17. POSITIONS, 18. FRANK, 19. REO OR DODGE, 20. NOT PRECISE, 22. TYPE OF CRAB, 24. SORT, 25. SWISS CITY, 26. PEDAGOGICAL METHOD, 30. DELIGHTED, 34. AFGHAN COINS, 35. ANGERS, 37. MAN AND WRIGHT, 38. MAP ABBR., 39. SKIRT PART, 40. SQUARE METER, 42. JOKE, 43. BASRA NATIVE, 45. CHURCH PART, 47. A STAR, 48. VERBAL NOUN, 50. OUTCASTS, 52. DOLL, 54. — DE COLOGNE, 55. LIVE TOGETHER, 58. ANY USSR LEADER, 62. SAXOPHONE TYPE, 63. COMPLETE, 65. OPINION; PREL., 66. PART OF A NUT, 67. OFFICIAL STAMPS, 68. TWO — CLOTH, 69. MAGNET AND, 70. DISINTEGRATE, 71. SAILOR'S SAINT.

Peanuts



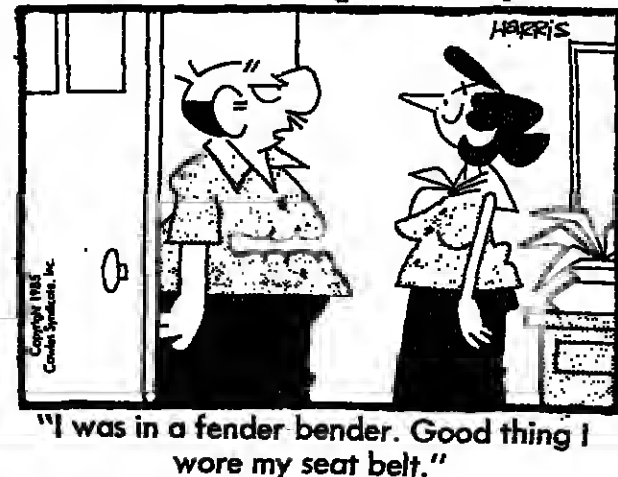
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

He'll never get anywhere

WHAT A WORKER WHO ALWAYS WATCHES THE CLOCK GENERALLY REMAINS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: OF THE

Yesterday's Jumble: KNELL, FINNY IMPORT GLANCE
Answer: There's usually a fine for parking in any spot that's this — FINE FOR PARKING

سنة ١٤٠٦ هـ

Mandela returns to jail

Death toll reaches 43 in a week of violence

CAPE TOWN (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela was returned to jail from hospital Saturday morning, dashing intense speculation that his release was imminent.

A spokesman for the South African Prisons Department said Mr. Mandela, who is 67 and has been in prison for nearly a quarter-century, was taken back to Pollsmoor Jail from the Cape Town hospital where he has been recovering from prostate surgery performed three weeks ago.

The length of time he had spent in hospital after a relatively minor operation and his wife Winnie's frequent trips between her home in Johannesburg and the hospital, had fuelled rumours that his release was being negotiated.

Mr. Mandela, behind bars since 1962, was jailed for life in 1964 on charges of sabotage and plotting revolution against white rule.

Security police who had swarmed around the hospital in a leafy Cape Town suburb, zoned for whites, had vanished from the scene Saturday.

Speculation about Mandela's possible release mounted Friday when a two-man legal team spent 2-1/2 hours with him in his ward, at his urgent request.

Mr. Mandela's lawyers said

after the meeting they could not disclose its topics without violating a blanket ban on quoting prisoners in South Africa.

Mandela's wife Winnie, who flew back Friday from a visit to her husband in Cape Town, was planning to attend the funeral of an unrest victim while continuing to defy a government order to return to internal exile.

She told reporters in Johannesburg that, despite the intense speculation, she had no official indications suggesting her husband could soon walk free.

"We have had no move from the quarters that should be responsible for his release — the government," she said.

She has ignored a Nov. 15 deadline laid down by the government for her to return to banishment at Brandfort or face prosecution.

She left the town to return to Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg, after her tiny home was gutted following a petrol bomb attack.

In Lusaka a senior official of the African National Congress

(ANC) called Saturday for greater international pressure on South Africa to free its leader Nelson Mandela.

Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the outlawed South African black nationalist group, said in Lusaka: "International public opinion has been consistently calling for the release of our leader. The demand should be made even louder at this time."

Meanwhile, three people were killed in black townships overnight. South African police said Saturday bringing to at least 43 the official death toll in a week of protest violence.

The figure — excluding 11 deaths in what appeared to be a purely tribal clash near Durban — is at least as high as those in the last two weeks of October, just before a clampdown on media coverage of unrest that the government blamed for fuelling the violence.

Police said Saturday that a crowd in Bridgetown, in the western Cape, stabbed a man to death and set his body alight, a fate usually befalling those regarded as collaborators with the apartheid race segregation system. "This was a horrifying attack and an appalling crime," the police report said.

It prohibits people in groups of four or more "from gathering or congregating upon public highways or public sidewalks or in any other outdoor place in the area," which is 10 blocks long and about four blocks wide.

Exceptions are made for those waiting to board trolleys or buses, people engaged in recreation or religious activities, or anyone peacefully entering or leaving buildings.

Residents of the overwhelmingly white, working-class neighbourhood took to the streets the past two nights, shouting racial insults against blacks who had moved in recently.

The neighbourhood was quiet Friday night. About half a dozen undercover police civil affairs officers sat in unmarked cars, and a police cruiser made occasional patrols.

Few residents were on the streets. Young people could be seen in a few clusters of no more than three.

On Wednesday night, more than 400 people mobbed the street outside the home of a black couple and their daughter.

The blast left a tangle of twisted metal and littered the track with the peasants' few meagre belongings. Doctors said four of the injured were in a serious condition.

Police believe the fact that the train was running more than 50 minutes late may have saved many lives. They said the bomb appeared

State of emergency declared in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A state of emergency was declared in a mostly white neighbourhood following demonstrations by residents opposed to blacks moving in to the area.

Mayor W. Wilson Goode said Friday there was "an imminent danger of civil disturbance which poses a serious, substantial and continuing danger to the health, safety and property of the citizens."

Mr. Goode declared the state of emergency Friday after street protests in the southwest Philadelphia neighbourhood by several hundred whites Wednesday and Thursday nights.

He said the state of emergency will remain in effect for at least two weeks.

It prohibits people in groups of four or more "from gathering or congregating upon public highways or public sidewalks or in any other outdoor place in the area," which is 10 blocks long and about four blocks wide.

Exceptions are made for those waiting to board trolleys or buses, people engaged in recreation or religious activities, or anyone peacefully entering or leaving buildings.

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World hails outcome of summit

U.S. aide in Peking to brief Chinese

NEW YORK (AP) — Many nations hailed the first superpower summit in six years with hope and optimism, but some political leaders and newspapers said long, hard bargaining would be needed to achieve nuclear arms reductions.

China's official Xinhua News Agency commented, "despite the lack of substantial results at the summit, the fact that the leaders of the two opposing superpowers sat down to talk deserved welcome."

In Peking, the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying: "We hope that from now on, the United States and the Soviet Union shall really give up their contention for military superiority and get down to negotiation in earnest and reach agreements without jeopardising other countries' interests."

"The summit and the resumption of dialogue alone infused hope into humankind," said the Hungarian Communist Party daily Nepszabadsag.

After the summit ended, however, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos expressed disappointment that "still we are under the threat of nuclear incineration."

"No one reasonably expected that all the complex and acute problems that have arisen over the years would be resolved in two days," said Alessandro Natta, head of the Italian Communist Party, the West's largest.

In Iran, a Shi'ite Muslim clergyman told a Tehran prayer meeting the summit was a ploy to increase U.S.-Soviet world domination.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met "to safeguard their own material interests and explore ways for further strengthening their grip on weaker nations," Ayatollah Emami Kashani was quoted as saying by the official news agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus.

Pravda, the state-run Czechoslovak daily, said Washington has nothing to gain by pursuing the Strategic Defence Initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars."

"The United States... will not change the strategic balance in its favour, nor will it succeed in bringing the Soviet Union to its knees economically," Pravda said.

Egypt's state-run newspaper Al Akhbar, reporting that Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev limited their talks to bilateral issues, said the two "forgot that... their positions as superpowers (give them) a hand in every regional problem troubling the world."

"The disaster is that the non-aligned countries are somewhat aligned to the superpower or the other, and we see no alternative to that in the near future. We do not know if their agreement is a blessing for us in the Third World or a curse."

Mr. Reagan had said he would raise regional issues with the Soviets, and U.S. envoy Richard Murphy said in Israel on Friday that a conference on peace in the Middle East had been discussed.

The pro-government Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Madina commented, "previous superpower summits have shown that hardly any agreement is ever reached on small wars or regional conflicts."

Under the headline "hunger and arms," the Mexico City daily Ultimas Noticias observed that Mr. Gorbachev "said that 10 per cent of what is spent on arms would be enough to feed 50 million people now on the brink of death.... Let us hope that those two poles of power will understand and will concern themselves more with world peace."

The Geneva summit was the first since 1979, when President Jimmy Carter met with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna, Austria.

The leaders of West Germany and East Germany praised the Geneva summit Friday and said the meeting would lead to improved relations.

Both West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Communist Party leader Erich Honecker had long promoted a superpower summit as a means of reducing tensions in central Europe.

Mr. Kohl said the summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev would usher in "the beginning of a new phase in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union in particular and between East and West in general."

"The summit was a considerable success," Mr. Kohl added in a statement read to reporters by chief government spokesman Friedrich Ost.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States "have expressed together their wish for continued dialogue in search of solutions for the problems that face us," the chancellor said.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the summit meeting had not changed the position of the Soviet Union and the United States on any major issues. But he added the Geneva sessions helped to improve the atmosphere of superpower relations.

"I agree with the positive judgement of the summit," Mr. Genscher told West German radio.

In East Berlin, Mr. Honecker told a Communist Party Central Committee meeting that the summit was "positive."

Mr. Honecker said that although not all "hopes and expectations" could be achieved in Geneva, the results of the Reagan-Gorbachev talks were "completely encouraging" for East-West relations, according to the state-run ADN news agency.

The "conditions for the solution of the most important questions have been improved," ADN quoted Mr. Honecker as saying.

The East German leader added that the Geneva meetings had laid "the framework for further negotiations over decisive questions" and helped "further relations between the Soviet Union and the United States."

A senior American official arrived Saturday to brief China on the results of the Geneva summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz was to meet Sunday with Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and other Chinese officials. He flew in from Tokyo, where he held similar talks with Japanese officials.

"I think they (the Chinese) have a very broad, wide-ranging interest" in the summit, Mr. Wolfowitz said.

"Obviously arms control and the regional issues are particularly what matters, but they have a stake in a constructive U.S.-Soviet relationship just as we can benefit from a constructive Chinese-Soviet relationship," he said.

Among regional issues of concern to China are the deployment of Soviet missiles in Asia and Soviet support for Vietnam's military occupation of Kampuchea. China, like the United States, has called on Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea.

The Foreign Ministry on Friday welcomed the willingness of Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev to improve relations between the two countries and expressed hope that the superpowers would "really give up their contention for military superiority and get down to (arms) negotiation in earnest."

Mr. Wolfowitz was last in China in February. He also will travel to Seoul to brief South Korean officials on the summit.

Two former U.S. arms control negotiators expressed disappointment Friday that the U.S.-Soviet summit yielded no concrete progress in reducing nuclear armaments.

Gerard Smith, chief U.S. negotiator at the SALT II talks, said the first and most important outcome of the summit was that "the two arms races are to go on."

Paul Warnke, who negotiated the SALT II agreement, said the "good news" from the summit is that President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev will meet again. "The bad news is that not much will happen then either," he said.

The former negotiators, who spoke at a joint news conference, said they regretted that Mr. Reagan did not agree to abide by provisions of the unratified SALT II treaty for an additional year. The accord is due to expire on Dec. 31.

Mr. Warnke said that if Mr. Reagan allows the treaty to lapse, it could lead to a 100 per cent increase in nuclear weaponry compared with the 50 per cent reductions the two sides have proposed.

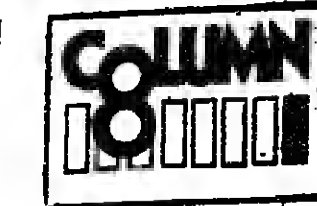
Mr. Warnke said Mr. Reagan has retreated somewhat from his 1980 position that SALT II is "fatally flawed" and added that he was puzzled as to why the president did not recommit himself to the agreement.

A letter from Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to Mr. Reagan before the summit warned the president against agreeing in Geneva to extend SALT II, and U.S. officials said the leak of that document killed any chance of a summit agreement on an extension.

Officials have said Mr. Reagan plans to withhold judgement on an extension until later in the year.

Mr. Smith said the pressures on Mr. Reagan will be great in the coming weeks to extend his commitment to SALT II beyond Dec. 31. To do otherwise, he said, "would be to vomit on the product of the summit."

If both sides adhere to SALT II, they would be required to dismantle some existing weapons systems before going ahead with updated systems now being planned.



Man gets 5 years for kissing minor

KUWAIT (R) — An unidentified man has been jailed for five years for stealing a kiss from a nine-year-old girl, Kuwaiti newspapers reported Saturday. The defendant said he picked the girl up after she fell and kissed her because she was upset.

Tax authorities threatened with snakes

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Legal action will be taken against a discontented taxpayer who allegedly threatened tax authorities with snakes. The Stockholm newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported Saturday. The man had been invited to attend an assessment board meeting in Huddinge, a Stockholm suburb, to defend his tax statement. The paper reported, it said, he emptied a bag of 11 snakes onto the table in front of board members. When tax officials recoiled in fright, the man tried to calm them by assuring them the snakes were harmless Boa Constrictors, the newspaper said. The paper said chief prosecutor Sven Hogberg in Huddinge was preparing an indictment against the man charging him with threatening an official.

Hatter plans to send Gorbachev American hats

NEW YORK (R) — An American hat manufacturer has decided that the summit between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev needed something to top it off — and he is sending the Soviet leader a wardrobe of hats. Irving Joel, who says his company Restol Hats of Garland, Texas, produces millions of hats each year, said in a statement here that he decided to make the gesture after the American media kept admiring Gorbachev's suits but criticizing his hats. He said he shipped a Western hat similar to one Reagan wears, a Fedora and other dressy and casual styles. "Mr. Gorbachev certainly has approached the summit with a rare spirit of understanding. And I wanted to do something to say thanks from me and my fellow countrymen," he said. Joel added: "We've known for years that hats not only look good but help prevent colds. Those Russian folks endure fierce winters..."

Man jailed 104 years in sex slave case

REDWOOD CITY, California (R) — Timberrill worker Cameron Hooker, described as barbarous and sadistic in a court report, was sentenced to serve a maximum 104 years in prison for kidnapping and holding a young hitchhiker as his sex slave for seven years. Hooker, 32, was convicted of kidnapping, rape and other sexual crimes against Colleen Stan. For seven years beginning in 1977 when she was abducted at knifepoint, Stan was bound, hung from rafters, locked in wooden boxes and trained to cater to Hooker's wishes. The mild-looking father of two admitted at his trial that he kidnapped the young woman but claimed she eventually fell in love with him and wanted to bear him a son. "He is probably the most dangerous psychopath I've ever dealt with, if for no other reason than that he appears to be the opposite," said San Mateo County Judge Clarence Knight, who ordered the sentence. Stan, 28, said of the prison term: "I'm just glad that Cameron won't be able to hurt anyone else again. I'm glad the judge felt the same way."

Reagan selects historian as his biographer

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has selected Kenya-born Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edmund Morris to be his biographer and is giving Morris a rare insider's view of the presidential life. A White House official said last week, Morris, 45, who emigrated to the United States in 1968 and now lives in Washington, accompanied Mr. Reagan to Geneva for his summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Presidential spokesman Peter Rousell said. The historian and author has been promised a series of interviews with Mr. Reagan and access to White House meetings, giving him direct and frequent contact with his subject.

2 die, 18 hurt in Punjab train blast

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists blew up a train in Punjab state in northern India Friday night, killing two people in their biggest attack since moderate Sikhs won power in state elections two months ago.

Police said the powerful bomb blast also injured 18 people when it ripped through a passenger train about 80 kilometres south of the state capital, Chandigarh. First reports had said three people were killed.

About 15 people have been killed in extremist gun and bomb attacks since the moderate Akali Dal Party won the Sept. 25 poll in a setback to the militants campaigning for a separate nation called Khalistan in the Sikh-majority state.

The blast blew off the roof and sides of the last carriage as the train left Sharnbhu, the last station in Punjab before the border with Hindu-majority Haryana state.

Most casualties were Hindu farm labourers returning to eastern Bihar state after the rice harvest, police told a Reuters correspondent at the scene.

Police believe the fact that the train was running more than 50 minutes late may have saved many lives. They said the bomb appeared

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timed to go off at the train's next stop, the busy station at Ambala on the Haryana border.

The blast tore through a compartment crammed with about 100 farm workers, passenger Gopal Sahar told Reuters.

"We had just eaten our meal and were settling down to sleep when the explosion happened. There was blood everywhere," he said.

The blast left a tangle of twisted metal and littered the track with the peasants' few meagre belongings. Doctors said four of the injured were in a serious condition.

U.S. concerned over reports of press arrests in Liberia

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States voiced concern Saturday over reports that several journalists had been arrested in Liberia after the failed coup attempt against Liberian leader Samuel Doe last week.

"We have seen a variety of reports that give cause for concern, including one that at least five journalists are being held in detention," the State Department said in a statement in response to reporters' questions.

"We are attempting to obtain more information on all detainees," the statement said. It did not name any of the five journalists reported to have been detained.

The Liberian embassy said in a statement that 11 civilians had been arrested. Only one of them, Thomas Kamara, the former editor-in-chief of the New Liberian newspaper, was identified as a journalist.

Among the others it named were Jackson Doe, who stood for president against his namesake in a disputed general election last month, and former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who won a senate seat.

Both politicians belong to the Liberia Action Party (LAP). It and two other opposition parties allowed to contest the poll have accused Gen. Doe of rigging the vote.

Gen. Doe has alleged that the LAP backed the coup attempt, led by former army chief Thomas Juiwonkpa, who was later found hiding outside the capital, Monrovia, and shot by Gen. Doe's bodyguard.

The U.S. government, a crucial supplier of aid, has said it is keeping a close eye on Gen. Doe's actions following the coup. The State Department called on Liberia "to release those not charged, to ensure that those in its custody not be physically abused and to allow those who continue to be held to receive family and lawyers," the statement said.

The only journalist known to have been killed after the coup was Charles Gbeyon, news director of the government radio station. It said.

According to the Liberian government, Gbeyon was "killed accidentally" with a gun he was carrying while resisting arrest.

The State Department noted that Gen. Doe had promised civil trials for civilians arrested. The Liberian embassy statement quoted a government announcement that the trials would start immediately but it did not indicate whether they were under way.

The State Department said courts-martial had started trying soldiers implicated in the coup attempt on Wednesday.

Colombian town to be sealed off, fumigated

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The mayor of a town wiped out by volcano-triggered mudslides said the government will seal off and fumigate Armero to prevent the spread of disease from decomposing bodies.

Rumblings were heard in two more of Colombia's volcanoes, both in southern Narino province, prompting its governor to ask Friday that experts evaluate the risk of an eruption.

The Nevado Del Ruiz volcano erupted earlier this month, sending a wave of mud that covered Armero and killed some 25,000 people.

Army Maj. Rafael Ruiz Navarro, appointed to replace Armero's original mayor, who is missing and believed dead under the mud, said Friday that official plans call for sealing off the former

coffee-growing town for 40 days. "We're just waiting for the Red Cross to give the word" that there is no more chance of finding survivors, he said.

The Red Cross said Thursday that two men rescued by a British rescue team from a church steeple poking up through the mud probably would be the last survivors found.

Red Cross Spokesman Eduardo Botero said the two people were detected Tuesday night by a British team using heat-sensing equipment and were rescued Wednesday night.

Health Minister Rafael De Zubiria Gomez said at least 500 bodies are still floating in the mud and many more are buried in the ooze that destroyed most of the town's nearly 5,000 buildings.

France trying to gain release of agents

PARIS (AP) — France's minister of defence told an imprisoned secret agent in New Zealand that the French government is "working on" getting her and another agent released, despite the fact they both were just sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Maj. - Alain Mafart and Capt. Dominique Prieur pleaded guilty to manslaughter for their role in the bombing and sinking of the Greenpeace flagship vessel Rainbow Warrior last July 10 Auckland Harbour. A crewmember of the environmental group was killed.

"Know that we are working on your (release)," Defence Minister Paul Jules told Mrs. Prieur in a telephone conversation broadcast on television in Paris Friday night.

She and Mafart also were sentenced Friday to seven years in prison for arson. The sentences are to run concurrently. They are eligible for parole in four years, eight months.

Mr. Jules said "things will go more easily" now that the sentences have been handed down, adding that discussions with New Zealand authorities would get under way.

Speaking by telephone earlier from his prison cell with France Inter, the national radio station, Prieur said of the verdict: "It is what we expected, a little tough, perhaps."

While the government of Prime Minister David Lange has refrained from commenting on the outcome of the case, New Zealand newspaper reaction Saturday was sharp.

"It is only a pity that the political and military sponsors of the Rainbow Warrior plot cannot be clapped in cells alongside the agents," the New Zealand Herald said.

"Their contemptuous arrogance in devising a cloak-and-dagger operation against a lawful caller in a peaceful, friendly country, almost defies belief."

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He added, however, that Chinese policies could change. "I am not saying it will happen in the next two or three years or even decades, but we have to be ready," he said.

Mr. Mahathir said the current visit had put his heart more at ease over Peking's intentions but the CPM felt they might still obtain Chinese aid in future.

Malaysia would not end restrictions on travel to and from China, but would be more liberal in issuing visas, he added.

In the talks, China had agreed to increase direct trade, eliminating the middle-men in Singapore and Hong Kong who have dominated much of Sino-Malaysian trade since before the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1974, Mr. Mahathir said.

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"The Chinese government has

assured us it is in favour of direct trade. Now it is up to the businessmen," said Mr. Mahathir, who is accompanied by a 130-strong business delegation on his eight-day official visit.

Malaysia urged China to develop barter trade and use ships belonging to the two countries in bilateral trade.

Mahathir said he had discussed China's trade surplus with South East Asian countries, which he had described in a speech to Chinese students Friday as unacceptable.

He also asked Premier Zhao Ziyang to support tin producers by restraining China's exports, following the announcement by the international tin council that it could not support prices. Zhao agreed to consider the suggestions favourably, he said.

Reagan: Soviets want political solution to Afghan problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has said there were indications in his talks earlier this week with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the Soviet Union is seeking a political solution to their involvement in Afghanistan.

"I told him that if we were going to make any gains at all, we should start by trying to eliminate the distrust